

Agricultural Editor

# THE AMERICAN FARMER,



"O FORTUNATOS NIMIUM SUA SI BONA NORINT  
"AGRICOLAS."  
Virg.

VOL. XIV.

BALTIMORE, DECEMBER, 1858.

No. 6.

## DECEMBER.

"See, winter comes, to rule the varied year,  
Gullen and sad, with all his rising train,  
Vapors, and clouds, and storms."

December is the period of the year's review.—The earth has passed through her season of production, and is taking her winter's repose. The husbandman may enjoy too a time of comparative rest. After a short day's work out of doors, a long evening by the fire-side invites him to reflection. A prudent man of business will overlook the past. He will examine the plans which were laid last winter for the operations of the season. He knows now how far they have been successful, and to what extent they have failed. He will take pains to determine whether his year's work has been deficient in plan and system or whether he has failed in promptness, intelligence and skill, in executing his plans. It is only such careful review that will give to future practice the full benefit of past experience. It is a season too for gathering up useful information from whatever source; from books and journals especially, from friendly intercourse with more experienced neighbours, or from whomsoever you may have the opportunity of associating with. Let the young farmer, especially, be sure to use diligently the leisure winter season in studying the principles of his business.

## WORK FOR THE MONTH.

### CORN.

Let your corn be now housed, as soon as possible. Every day in the field subjects it to depredation and loss.

### TOBACCO.

Lose no opportunity of stripping Tobacco whenever it may be in order. It is greatly better to do this work now, than to have it on hand in spring. Do not put it in large bulks when stripped, but in light bulks of two courses. Use the utmost care in overlooking the strippers to see that it is properly

assorted. See that the fine qualities of yellow and red are not intermixed with bruised and damaged leaves and with that of inferior quality. Do not allow the sticks of tobacco to be thrown from the joists, but have them handed down, and the tobacco carefully taken off them. As the bundles are tied, do not permit them to be thrown into heaps until evening, but let each bundle, before it leaves the hand of the stripper, be pressed into the shape it is desired it should keep, and laid carefully in parcels until you are ready to put in the bulks. There is no waste of time in using this care, the tobacco is better handled, and it begets the neatness which is essential in the proper handling of the crop. At night, when the stripped tobacco has been laid carefully in bulks, have every waste leaf picked up, the tobacco sticks laid away on a lower joist of the house, and the stalks, not thrown out at the door, but heaped in a corner of the house, secure from weather till wanted for manure. A single washing with rain, will deprive them probably of half their value as manure. The stalks from 20 acres of Tobacco are perhaps, quite equal in value, as a manure, to a ton of the best Peruvian Guano, and about as liable to waste by exposure to rains.

### PLOUGHING.

As long as the ground may be open continue to plough stiff clays. The effect of a free exposure of such lands to the action of freezing and thawing, may be equal to a good manuring, by dissolving the insoluble and unavailable constituents of the soil.

### CARE OF STOCK.

Have all stock now in their winter quarters, and let them be well fed. Do not rely on the poor pickings they may get in the pasture. They require good substantial food, and adequate protection from storms and all bad weather.

**Work Horses.**—Work Horses and Mules should not be confined to stalls, but have stable room enough to turn around, and abundant dry beds to lie upon.

Horses coming from work, should be rubbed and wiped thoroughly dry, and mud and dirt well cleaned from their legs and feet.

**Oxen.**—Oxen should be fed apart from other cattle. When not at work they drive the weaker ones from their food, and when at work they require better feeding, but getting into the yards late, they get only the leavings of the other stock.

**Calves.**—Let calves have a separate pen and shelter and be fed and watered to themselves. They should have the best hay, or well cured corn-fodder; and a half peck of bran or half as much corn meal a day, would cost little, and pay liberally in their growth.

**Cows.**—Cows giving milk must of course be fed well with something else than hay or fodder. One good cow at the pail well fed with meal and bran mixed—a half peck three times a day, and a peck of ruta бага turnips or sugar beet besides, will give more milk than half a dozen fed only on ordinary hay or straw.

**Water.**—No farm yard is complete in its arrangements without a supply of water at hand. Stock need more water when fed on dry winter food, than on the succulent grass of Summer, and should always be able to get it without exposure to bad weather, or plunging through mud and mire, or breaking their limbs over sleet and ice.

#### HOG FEEDING.

Continue the hog-feeding with a full allowance of sound corn, till the fattening is completed.

**Curing Bacon.**—The method of curing makes great difference in the value of bacon, we give this month, recipes by which the premium hams at several Cattle Shows have been cured. Either of them, with strict care in their application, ought to give you good bacon.

#### SHEEP.

Sheep should be provided with shelter to which they may resort in bad weather. Generally they do better for not being confined. Flocks should be sorted. The bucks should be kept in a lot to themselves. Ewes too old for breeding should be put to themselves, and well fed with grain till fat. Young ewes of any variety should not be permitted to breed until after a year old, and those of the fine wool breeds till after two years old.

Have racks and troughs for feeding, and feed nothing upon the ground.

#### TURKIES.

Why should turkies sell so high when every farmers wife might raise a yard full of them? Tobacco planters paid the past year seventy-five cents a piece for large flocks of less than half grown turkies, and the 18th of November a man asks us on the street \$4 for three young turkey gobblers.

If you have no stock of turkies purchase them now, if you are on a tobacco plantation, and raise your own turkies—you will be able thus to supply

your own wants cheaper, and benefit your city friends by giving them a better supply of the best bird living, any time after Thanksgiving day.

#### WINTER CLOTHES FOR SERVANTS.

Have these in readiness early, and let them be substantial and comfortable.

#### MANURES.

Gather diligently materials for making manures and composts which you may have at command—Immediately on killing your hogs have all the manure in and about the pens carefully scraped together and mixed with litter or any absorbent and throw it into heaps. Scrape up the blood at killing time for the same purpose. Gather up all the hair and put away in barrels. It is first rate manure for potatoes.

#### FENCES AND GATES.

Get into your yard, posts to be morticed and prepared for your fences in Spring, or stakes to be pointed and caps bored. Have a good gate for every field and lot, and make your carpenter, before he makes them, read the article in our November number on mechanical principles and field gates.

**Fire Wood.**—Have a full supply hauled before Christmas to last all winter.

## WORK IN THE GARDEN.

### DECEMBER.

There will be little work in the garden ordinarily during this month.

**Cabbages—Roots.**—Should these not have been properly secured heretofore, they will demand, of course, prompt attention now.

**Artichoke Bed.**—Clean and dress this with a little manure.

**Asparagus Beds.**—Asparagus beds, if not attended to as heretofore directed, may still be dressed.

**Plants in Frames.**—Every fair day, in moderate weather, raise the glasses about mid-day, to give the plants air—close before night, and in cold weather, cover with mats.

**Stiff Clay Beds.**—These should be thoroughly dug and left in a rough state, exposed to the action of the frost.

**Composts.**—Remember that good composts are essential to successful gardening; and begin in time to collect and prepare them for the coming season.

**Protection.**—Protect the stems of newly planted trees and half hardy plants, by wrapping them with straw or matting—bearing in mind that the purpose is not to secure warmth, but to secure them against the effect of alternate freezing and thawing. As evidence of this you will find that it is the side exposed to the sun's rays, that suffers first.

**Pruning.**—Hardy trees and shrubs may be pruned in any moderate weather.

**Insects.**—To destroy insects on fruit trees and prevent their increase, Bridgeman recommends as follows:—"Take a strong knife with a sharp point, and a sharp hook-like iron, made for the purpose; with these scrape clean off, all the moss and outside rough bark, and with the knife pick out or cut away cankered parts of the bark and of the wood, in such a slanting manner, that insects cannot lodge in the sides of the stems of the trees. Having cleared the trees in this way, make up a mixture of lime, soot and sulphur; put these ingredients into a pot or tub, pour boiling water upon them, and with a stick stir and mix them well together. When this strong mixture becomes cold, and about the thickness of white-wash, take a brush, dip it in the mixture, and apply it to the stems and large branches of the trees, dabbing it well into the hollow parts of the bark."

### FLORICULTURE—December, 1858.

Prepared for the American Farmer, by W. D. Brackenridge, Florist and Pomologist, Govanstown, Balt. Co., Md.

Under ordinary culture, the greenhouse and conservatory during the present month, will not be furnished with a very gay assemblage of flowers, as most of the Chrysanthemums will be passing out of bloom; yet still, if the gardener during the past summer and fall, has looked well ahead, and been active in propagating and growing the proper kinds of plants, a very attractive show of flowers may even now be had; these will consist principally of *Camellias* that have been brought into bud early last spring, *Euphorbias*, *Sweet Violets*, *Epiphyllums*, *Monthly Carnations*, *Salvia fulgens* and *Involucrata*, *Linum triginum*, *Genaria zebрина*, *Catalonian jessamine*, with *Stevias* and *Heliotropes* in the warm end of the house.

In cold weather start the fires briskly about mid-day, and in fine weather, give air only in the forenoon; do not let the temperature either by night or day exceed 60° Fahr.; water the plants very sparingly at this season, shifting all such plants as require it, into larger pots. Keep the pathways damp, so as to prevent the raising of dust; pick off all decayed leaves, and keep the plants neatly tied up to stalks, observing to give the whole house a thorough clean out, at least once every week.

**Camellias.**—Towards the end of the month these will begin to bloom freely, at which time begin to give water more liberally at the root, syringing occasionally overhead in fine weather.

**Calceolarias**—will require to be repotted; use a compost of friable loam, well rotted leaves and sharp sand—in about equal proportions, and if the atmosphere of your house is dry, syringe the whole frequently, to keep down the red spider, a pest to which the calceolaria is very subject.

**Lilium lancifolium and longiflora.**—These should now be potted in a mixture of leaf-mould, loam, and sand; do this work without delay, as Lillies do not like to be disturbed after they begin to grow.

**Verbenas**—that have been struck by cuttings in the fall, should now be placed in 2 or 3 inch pots; shift such plants as are already established, and wanted to bloom early, into larger pots.

**Chrysanthemums.**—after done blooming; for treatment see last month's memo.

**Victoria and Ten-week Stocks**—should be shifted into larger pots; keep them in a light airy place, close to the glass.

**Mignonette**—if in small pots, ought to be shifted into larger ones before the roots become matted around the pots: observe to drain the pots well.

**Monthly Carnations and Pinks**—may now be placed in the pots in which they are to bloom, and cuttings struck in the fall, should now be put in pots of the 3 inch size.

**Pansies**—from seed or division of the roots, should be shifted into larger pots; use a rich, free sandy loam for this purpose, and place the plants in the coolest part of the house, or in a cold frame, where they can be protected from frosts.

**Gladiolus**—for spring flowering may still be potted.

**Calla (Ethiopic).**—Such roots of this not before repotted, should now be attended to, and others now in small pots, and wanted to produce strong flowers, may be shifted into larger ones.

**Azaleas**—in a dormant state, will at this time require but little water, to those removed to a warmer place for early blooming, a little more ought to be given.

**Gloxinias**—wanted for early flowering, may now be shifted and placed in a warm part of the house.

**Heaths and Epacris**—require to be kept in a cool airy part of the greenhouse; now is a good time to repot such as may want it; put in cuttings of these, as well as of *Diosmas* and other plants of a similar nature and habit.

**Cinerarias**—should be kept growing, by constant shifting into larger pots, as the plants progress in size; syringing them overhead to keep down the Aphids.

**Pelargoniums.**—For treatment, see last month's memo.

**Amaryllis**—in a dormant state may now be repotted and placed in a warm part of the house.

**Auriculas, Carnations and Sweet Violets**—in frames or pits, should receive abundance of air in fine weather, and but little water at this season of the year; in cold weather, cover the glass with thick mats made of rye straw.

### IMPORTED CLEVELAND BAY STALLION.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Many of your readers interested in that noblest of quadrupeds, the horse, will be glad to learn that the ship "Flora McDonald" which will arrive in the port of Baltimore in the latter part of this month, will bring to our shores the splendid Cleveland Bay Stallion, "Napier," imported by Dr. J. R. Woods, of Albemarle Co. Va. "Napier" has taken a great many prizes in England, where he is considered one of the finest animals of the breed. He will probably stand in Maryland during the next season, but will certainly remain sufficient time in Baltimore to be seen by all admirers of fine horses here.

Yours, &c.

SENEX.

Baltimore, November 18th, 1858.

Let us use sometimes to stop a little, and ask ourselves, What are we about? Whither are we going? And where all will end at last?

(For the American Farmer.)

**THE GRAPE VINE.**

(Continued from the October Number.)

BY THOMAS BAYNES, OF BALTIMORE.

A vine in the third or fourth year of its growth will in general, show a few bunches of grapes, and these are usually suffered to remain and ripen instead of being plucked off as soon as they appear; these, having been produced before the plant has sufficient strength to mature them without injury to its constitution, although the quantity be small, inflict a severe blow on its vital energies from the exhausting nature of the process of maturation. At the proper season the inexperienced cultivator applies the pruning knife, but, this being in perfect ignorance as to whether the plant has sufficient strength to ripen any fruit or not, in the following year, he looks at the young wood, and seeing four or five good strong shoots, cuts them back to as many buds each, leaving, perhaps, twenty in the whole. Summer comes, and the vine, having been seriously crippled by the premature ripening of fruit in the preceding year, and having now twenty shoots to supply with nourishment instead of two or three, and sap being so diminished in quantity, and distributed also through so many channels, is incapable of forming an inch of really good bearing wood.

To these characteristics of the usual method of managing a vine, may be added, two others, namely that of suffering the stem and principal branches to be covered with several years accumulation of decayed layers of bark, and of continually digging the border in which the roots run, and cropping it with vegetables, even close up to the stem.

This brief description of the common method of cultivating vines will apply I believe to ninety-nine out of every hundred throughout the country; and it may be remarked of it, that during the very first year of the plants having been suffered prematurely to ripen fruit, and throughout every successive year, afterwards, not a single point of culture has been practised, but what may be described as most erroneous. There is no point of culture in the whole routine of the management of the vine, the knowledge of which is of so much importance, as that which enables the cultivator to ascertain with precision the greatest quantity of fruit he can annually extract from it without checking its growth or injuring its vital powers; the operation of pruning, if it be not guided by this, is performed perfectly at random and every inch of bearing wood either cut out or retained under such circumstances is done in utter ignorance of the consequences.

From my experience I find that the weight of fruit which any vine, that has not been previously overcropped, will bring to the highest perfection without impairing its vital powers, is in proportion to the thickness of the stem.

No vine is to be considered a fruit-bearer, until its stem measures three inches in girth, as under that size vines ought never to be suffered to ripen fruit. This is a rule that should be adhered to in the management of young vines so as to husband their strength until their roots have multiplied sufficiently to provide a full supply of nourishment without suffering from exhaustion. As already stated, the greatest quantity of grapes which any vine can perfectly mature is in proportion to the circumference of its stem measured just above the ground, viz:—

3 inches 10 lbs. or 20 Bunches, or allowing 1 lb. per bunch,  
3½ inches 15 lbs. or 30 Bunches,  
4 inches 20 lbs. or 40 Bunches,

Adding 10 lb. for every additional inch.

In Summer, as soon as the berries are set, the number of bunches required to produce the given weight of fruit are selected to remain, and the excess immediately cut off. I have frequently to cut off, at the proper period in the Summer, as much as half, and sometimes, even three-fourths of the fruit, in order to reduce it to its proper quantity. I have frequently seen vines groaning, as it were, beneath their prodigious number of bunches; and have, on such occasions, invariably pointed out to the owners of them, the certainty of the plant being crippled, if the whole quantity produced were suffered to remain and ripen. But any representation of this sort made by me to any one, rarely had the effect of causing the excess in the quantity to be reduced even by a single bunch—so deeply rooted seems to be the belief, that because the vine shows a great number of bunches of grapes, it can, therefore, ripen them. This, I believe, is one, and perhaps the principal cause of the failure attending so many grape vines both in towns and country. In pruning, always cut upwards, and in a sloping direction, and always leave an inch of blank wood beyond the terminal bud, and let the cut be on the opposite side of the bud. Prune so as to leave as few wounds as possible, and let the surface of every cut be perfectly smooth. Never prune in frosty weather, nor in March, April or May. Pruning in either of these months causes bleeding.

Any man who owns a brick house in any city or town in this latitude, may, if his yard is open to the south in any degree, raise as many grapes as will supply his family without an expense of more time and money than is usually wasted in idleness. Indeed on the common wooden houses and fences, with which our yards are surrounded, good and abundant crops may be had; or by putting up cheap trellises. Plant either the Catawba, Isabella or Bland; or, better still, plant all three, as the Isabella ripens two weeks earlier than the Catawba, and the Bland two weeks later. This will insure a good crop from early in September to the last of December.

These remarks are intended to apply to raising Grapes for the table or market.

*First.*—Dig the trench as described in the October No. of the Farmer.

*Second.*—Place bones or durable manure at the bottom.

*Third.*—Plant two year old plants.

*Fourth.*—Cut them down the next year to two buds.

*Fifth.*—Allow no more fruit than they are capable of bringing to perfection as per scale, and you may then look for a good crop every year.

**THE SYRIAN OR BREAD CORN.**—Mr. Trump, of whose bread corn we spoke in October, has brought us, since, a loaf of bread made of it, which is very remarkable. The most critical taste would not, we are sure, have a suspicion of its being corn bread, nor has it the least appearance of it; both in taste and appearance it would be taken as a fair specimen of bread from Baltimore superfine flour.

## CHINESE SUGAR CANE—FEEDING STOCK.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:—

I learn it has been stated in some of the public journals, that stock, particularly cattle feeding upon the Chinese Sugar Cane, are liable to be killed by it: The impression made seems to be that there is something poisonous about the article. This, so far as my experience and observation go, is a mistake. That stock turned upon a lot of young Cane, may become coliced or hoven, and die from it, is very probable. This might occur from being turned upon young corn or even clover.

It is also likely that stock might be injured or destroyed if allowed to feed upon the bark of the Cane after it has been chewed by hogs, or pressed through a mill. Cattle have died from eating corn stalks that had been chewed by hogs. The careful farmer will see that his stock shall not get to that which would be injurious to them.—A neighbor of mine, lately lost a valuable cow from turning upon a lot of cane that had been cut early to feed his hogs, and which had subsequently put up an abundant crop of suckers.—The cow, doubtless, fed ravenously upon the tender blades and stalks which produced colic or hoven. This, surely does prove there is anything poisonous in the cane to stock. It would as likely have occurred from eating the same quantity of young corn.

I have now grown the second crop of the Chinese Sugar Cane, I have fed it freely to horses, cattle and hogs—to the two former in both green and cured state; I have found that they thrive finely on it. From the great drought we have had, the corn crop is a short one—hence, I have given my fattening hogs but little so far except sugar cane, and they are now fat. The seed I have ground with or without corn for my horses; I consider it one of the safest and most profitable crops we raise.

M. B. SHEPHERD.

Pineanna Co. Va., Oct. 25th, 1858.

## RECIPES FOR CURING HAMS.

The three following recipes were obtained by us at three of the recent Agricultural Fairs, and are all for curing Hams, which received first premiums. No. 1, as will be perceived, is in rhyme, and written with great sprightliness and wit; it is from the pen of Mrs. D. Brown, to whose ham, "*No Plus Ultra*," was awarded the first premium at the Fair of the Maryland Agricultural Society. Professor Aiken, mentioned in the recipe, is one of our esteemed subscribers, and a distinguished Chemist and Botanist. This recipe is printed from the original MS. as written. No. 2, is the recipe for the ham to which was awarded the first premium at the Fair of the United States Agricultural Society, at Richmond, Va. The fair writer of the Recipe and recipient of the premium was Mrs. L. C. Binford, widow, of Hanover Co. Virginia. We copied the recipe from the original manuscript at the Fair. No. 3 is printed from the original manuscript obtained by us at the Seaboard Agricultural Society's Fair at Norfolk, Va., and was contained in a communication addressed to the Judges.

## RECIPE NO. 1.

Take a single pound of *Pepper*, four times as much of *Salt*: two ounces of good *Allspice*, and a quart of *Barley Malt*; *Potash*, about two ounces, *Salt Petre* twice as much; one pound of good *White Sugar*, which feels sandy to the touch; a little common *Soda*, (to make the lean more mellow,) and prevent the fatty part of meat, from becoming yellow. Put these in *filtered water*, (five gallons is enough) and boil them altogether—what a precious mess of stuff! Skim off the foreign matter as it is not fit to eat, when you will have the *brine*, for one hundred pounds of meat. You need not stop to cool it, it is all the better hot, but pour it, *sans ceremonie*, directly from the pot; there let the meat for thirty days, lie soaking in this brine, (but just add a small *nutmeg*, and a pint of *Glycerine*).—Then take it from the pickling tub, and wash it in cold water. Next hang it up to smoke ten days, "leastwise" I think you ought to; Burn *Maple*, *Oak*, *Corn-Cobs* or *Tan*, most any wood will do; the old foggy song, 'bout *Hickory wood*, I don't believe is true; Don't smoke whilst wind comes from the east, or south east or the south; for take my word that meat will taste quite bitter in the mouth; but choose it north, north west or west, your meat will then smoke right, and not present, as t'other would, a very ugly plight; You then will have an article, that will the palate tickle; I'm sure you will agree with me, that 'tis a pretty pickle. You think the next thing to be told, is how to keep it good; that surely is not difficult, if once 'tis understood—Sew up in canvas and suspend, but not quite to the skies, you'll keep it thus secure against, the *Rats*, *Mice*, *Bugs*, and *Flies*. Now don't you think this last is plain, as plain as plain need be, I think it is so very plain, a blind man it would see. I would go on to tell you, the use of each ingredient, but that I am inclined to think, that that is not expedient; suffice it that I here have told, the way "to save one's bacon," If tain't believed, I hope you will, please ask Professor Aiken. And now, *Dear Messrs. Judges*, if you'll award a prize, to "*No Plus Ultra*," (that's the name) I'll think you're very wise; but if you don't, look out for squeals, I'll tell you what I'll do; I'll ne'er cut up another hog, unless I think of you.

Very respectfully,

Mrs. D. Brown.

P. S.—The Ham I send is very small, six pounds I think it weighs, I would have sent a larger one, and will "one of these days." 'Twas all I had, 'twas "*Hobson's choice*," I hope it's very good, tho' 'pon my honor, *Gents*, it was, from the Runt pig of the Brood.

D. B.

## RECIPE NO. 2.

I generally let my hogs hang up after they are killed, sufficiently long to get perfectly cold; say from early one morning to another. I then have them cut out, and well salted, allowing a tablespoonful of saltpetre to each ham, having it well rubbed on the inside of each. I then pack away, (having plenty of salt between the hams,) with the skin downwards. After allowing them to remain in salt four or five weeks, and if the weather is very cold, still longer; I then hang them up with the hock downward, to preserve the juices. Give them a good smoking every morning until you think they are sufficiently cured.—About the first of April have them taken down, examined, rubbed well with hickory ashes, sewed up tight in bags and hung up in a secure dry place.

Black pepper beaten fine and rubbed in is an excellent additional preservative. When boiling, have plenty of water, and boil until the under bone comes off easily.

L. C. BINFORD.

#### RECIPE NO. 3.

My hogs are generally fattened on Peas, Sweet Potatoes and Corn, and about 12 to 18 months old when slaughtered. I kill one day and cut out and salt up the next, allowing the hogs to hang out on the racks all night unless it is cold enough to freeze them.

Each ham has a dessert spoonfull of saltpetre rubbed well on the face; it is then well rubbed with Liverpool blown salt, and all packed away in a molasses hoghead, with holes bored in the bottom to let the pickle from them. They remain in salt from four to six weeks, according to size, they are then taken up, washed clean, and about a table spoonful of fine black pepper applied to the face of the hams. Red pepper will not answer. I consider black pepper indispensable in preserving the ham from fly in warm weather. My hams are then smoked with hickory branches until they become a pretty yellow color, when the smoking is discontinued except in rainy weather, and then we occasionally make a smoke. The grain pepper is preferable.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. S. WRIGHT.

In addition to the foregoing recipes we give to the readers of the Farmer the following copied by us from the originals, at the late Fair of the Frederick county (Md.) Agricultural Society.—There were some twenty Hams on exhibition on that occasion, and we had the pleasure of tasting the best. The ham which took the first premium was five years old, and was cured and exhibited by Jacob M. Buckey, Esq. The following is his recipe:


Lay in dry salt for two weeks, then let remain four weeks in a brine made of hickory ashes, molasses, cayenne pepper, Liverpool G. A. Salt; then smoke with hickory wood—rub with black pepper and hang up.

The following is the recipe by which was cured the Ham which received the second premium at the same Fair:

To 30 Hams put  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. salt petre, 2 lbs. sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. black pepper, salt well in a tight vessel, and after a few days cover with strong brine and allow to remain therein four weeks, then hang the meat in a dark place, smoke with green hickory wood and let hang until ready to cook.

By the following recipe was cured a Ham, exhibited at the same Fair, and the excellent flavour of which was much commended. For 1000 lbs. of pork make the following:

Brine.—Water, 12 gallons.—Coarse Salt, 9 lb.—Fine Salt, 9 do.—Molasses,  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon.—Salt Petre, 6 oz.—Potash, 2 oz. Boil together, skim off all impurities, and when cold pour over the meat until covered. Leave in the brine six weeks, and then smoke with hickory wood.

 We have received a Catalogue of Jeffery's Patent Double Acting Pump, with India Rubber Ball Valves, manufactured by Jeffery & Co., at Corning, Steuben Co., N. Y.

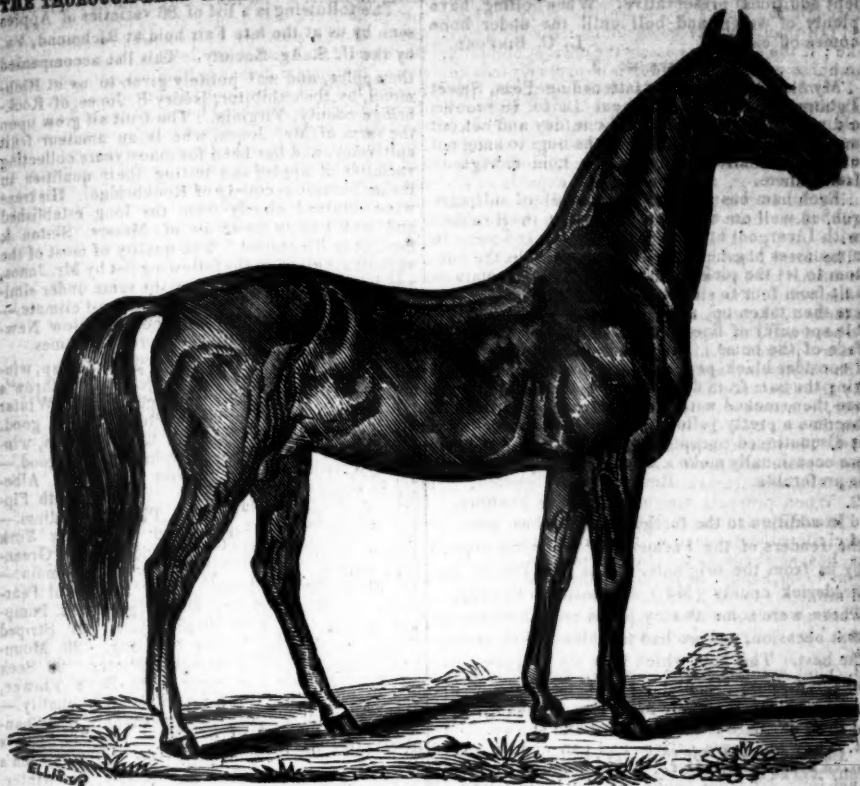
#### LIST OF APPLES.

The following is a list of 86 varieties of Apples seen by us at the late Fair held at Richmond, Va. by the U. S. Ag. Society. This list accompanied the apples, and was politely given to us at Richmond, by the exhibitor, Henry B. Jones, of Rockbridge county, Virginia. The fruit all grew upon the farm of Mr. Jones, who is an amateur fruit cultivator, and has been for many years collecting varieties of apples and testing their qualities in the mountainous county of Rockbridge. His trees were obtained chiefly from the long established and well-known nurseries of Messrs. Sinton & Son, near Richmond. The quality of most of the varieties is given in the following list by Mr. Jones, and it would doubtless prove the same under similar conditions, in the same latitude and climate.—The "Albemarle Pippin" and "Yellow Newtown," it should be observed, are synonyms.

LIST.—1. Father Abraham. 2. Wine Sap, winter, very good. 3. Wine Apple. 4. Withrow's Seedling. 5. Leathercoat, good. 6. Winter Sweet, good. 7. Danvers' Winter Sweet, good. 8. Sweet Paradise, good. 9. Green Pippin, winter, good. 10. Golden Pippin, winter, good. 11. New Town Pippin, winter, good. 12. Albemarle Pippin, winter, good. 13. Mammoth Pippin, fall, good. 14. Fall Pippin, medium. 15. Pound Apple, fall, good. 16. New York Pippin, winter, good. 17. Rhode Island Greening, winter, good. 18. Gloster Pearmain. 19. Mela Carla, winter, good. 20. Royal Pearmain. 21. Northern Spy, winter, good. 22. Pumpkin Sweet. 23. Red Sweet, good. 24. Striped Sweet, good. 25. Valley Seedling. 26. Mountain Seedling. 27. Withrow's Winter. 28. Seek no Further, fine fall apple. 29. Belle Flower, very good. 30. Winter Queen, fair quality. 31. Fall Cheese, good in its season. 32. Chancellor's Red, good fall apple. 33. Gregory's Red, very good. 34. Pryor's Red. 35. Robinson's Superb, good fall fruit. 36. Ogleby, fine winter. 37. Hughes' Virginia Crab, only fit for cider. 38. Fall Pearmain. 39. Esopus Spitzenburg, very good. 40. Winter Red Streak, good keeping. 41. Swaar, good winter. 42. Patterson's Russet, fine. 43. Surprise, inferior. 44. Hunge Apple, inferior. 45. Jones' Red Seedling. 46. Jones' Yellow Seedling. 47. Stuart's Seedling. 48. None Such. 49. Rambo, very fine. 50. Ellis' Apple. 51. Big Hill, very good. 52. Fallwater, good. 53. American Nonpareil, good. 54. Stettin. 55. Royal Russet, fine. 56. Grind Stone. 57. White Apple, inferior. 58. Hoover, good fall Apple. 59. Silex. 60. Pennsylvania Sweet. 61. Stuart's Winter. 62. Sinton's Late Keeping, inferior. 63. Buffalo. 64. Williams' favorite. 65. Rawle's Jannet, fine late winter. 66. Sinton's Red Stripes. 67. Patton's Pearmain, poor. 68. Sinton's Deep Red. 69. Speckled Winter. 70. Jones' Red Cheek Seedling. 71. Gloster White. 72. Waugh's Crab. 73. Vandevere, good. 74. Sinton's Flat Stripes. 75. Limber Twig, late keeping. 76. Lady Apple, fine table fruit. 77. Baldwin, very good. 78. Royal Russet, fine apple. 79. Duck Pond. 80. Patterson's Winter. 81. Peck's Pleasant, very good. 82. Flat Apple. 83. Imperial Winter Sweet. 84. Dutch Mignonne, fine cooking. 85. Gravenstein, very good. 86. Crutchfield's Greening, winter, good.

"The list of apples as above, were gathered in September and October. HENRY B. JONES."

# THE THOROUGH-BRED HORSE "CONSTERNATION"—Owned by J. B. Welsh, of Syracuse, New York



One of the most admired animals exhibited at the Horse Fair held the Autumn of this present year, at the Eclipse Course, Long Island, N. Y., was the thorough-bred Stallion represented above.

CONSTERNATION was bred by Mr. Mathew Hornsey, in 1841, at Stittenham, Yorkshire, England; was imported by Mr. Albot, in June, 1845 and is now owned by J. B. Welsh, of Syracuse, New York. Got by Confederate out of Curiosity, by Figaro—her dam by Waxy, her dam Bizarre by Peruvian, out of Violante by John Bull, sister to Sky-Scraper, by Highflyer, by Herod, by Flying Childers, etc. Confederate by Comus out of Maritornes, by Cervantes out of Sally, by Sir Peter, by Highflyer, by Herod, by Flying Childers. Figaro by Haphazard, by Sir Peter, out of Mrs. Hervey, by Eclipse.

## BLOOD HORSES.

As it is very clear that the horse is almost, if not absolutely, essential to our protection, comforts, necessities, or amusements, in nearly every step of our progress through life, it is certainly of the highest importance that he should be rendered as beautiful and serviceable, as valuable and perfect as possible. This can only be accomplished by the greatest care and strictest attention to the improvement of his breed. Some contend that racing does the most effectually test his durability, activity, and soundness, as a horse that can acquit himself in this, proves that his bones, muscles, lungs, and appendages, are sound, well proportioned, and entirely capable of performing their proper functions in the best manner. If any defect exist, this severe exercise will bring it into view. Such trials clearly establish his strength, soundness, activity, and endurance—and that from such a horse it would manifestly be safe to breed, that his produce would unquestionably be much

more likely to excel in those essential qualities than the produce of a common horse: that to breed to such you will be sure to have superior horses, whilst the expense of keeping a good one is no greater than that of keeping a bad one—if it costs as much.

The thoroughbred or pure blood is superior to every other variety, and the quality of the nags of this country will be found, on investigation, to correspond precisely with their breeding, declining in proportion as they recede from the acknowledged thoroughbred. Blood *always* tells *everywhere*: no inferiorly bred horse can get through mud, or a heavy country, like full blood—none can come up so well at the finish of distressing work, or return home so cheerfully after the toilsome business of the day. A thorough bred horse is rarely ridden off his feed, and however severe the exertions of the day may have been, he will generally feed readily on reaching his stable, and if too severely tasked he will rally sooner than those

of colder blood. It has been said, falsely, that thoroughbred hacks are more likely to stumble and fall than those of baser blood: this is a mistake; if the shoulder possess the correct obliquity, the horse will not come down if properly treated.

For all the lighter kinds of draught, the thoroughbred horse is decidedly preferable, and even for farming purposes a copious infusion of what is called *blood*, will be found a great improvement: a class of animals is thus produced, more vigorous and stronger, more active, and capable of enduring much greater and more long continued fatigue, than those that are at present in general use.

The term *blood* has reference to the quality of the animal as well as to the fluid which circulates in his veins: the *pure* or *genuine blood*, as it may be termed, *standing alone* as respects the powers of speed and the capability of supporting fatigue, in consequence of his texture and conformation.

The following are some of the many reasons why the stock of the high bred, or warm-blooded racer, is vastly superior to, and more valuable, than the stock of the common horse:—

1st. They have more and better brains, or more sense—more intelligence—and their disposition is more kind and tractable.

2. When properly viewed they have a refining and elevating influence. Christianity has tamed and civilized man—man with his refined sensibilities has semi-socialized the horse, and now he seems to be happy, as he shares the kind feelings and ministers to the happiness of man: "As a man soweth so shall he also reap," where Deity creates; 'tis surely man's dignity to study and cultivate.

3. They are more free from disease; their action is more free and elastic; their proportions are more accurate; their form is more beautiful; and their carriage is more elegant and showy.

4. They are more active, and can endure excessive heat much better. A fine blood horse can travel long distances rapidly in the hottest weather, when a common horse would probably fall dead under the same exercise.

5. They live to a much greater age. A common horse rarely lives to be of any service beyond 15 or 16 years of age, but a high-bred warm-blooded one is fit for good service for a much longer time, if he has been treated as every man ought to use his horse—some so called men are greater brutes than their horses.

6. Their superior strength, ability to carry heavy weights, and endure under it; their courage and bravery, fleetness and durability, render them far more efficient for cavalry, express, or general purposes, in the precise rates that they are judiciously imbued with pure blood: invariably evincing more gratitude to, and attachment for, a kind master. Pause, candid reader, and look for a moment at the evidence to sustain this proposition; the weight carried by an English hunting horse varies from 182 to 238 pounds; this must be borne over all inequalities of ground, hedges, ditches, and every other obstruction, and nothing but pure blood, with sufficient height and reach, can carry the weight, go the pace, and do that work quite well.

In the days of English staging, coaches containing from 12 to 16 passengers, in addition to the guard and coachmen, and from half a ton to a ton and a half of baggage, were driven from 15 to 17

miles an hour. The horses by which such heavy and rapid work was done were as *nearly thoroughbred* as could possibly be procured: nothing but these could have done it once. That speed and power the people demanded before railroads were formed: it had to be done, and it was effected by there being thoroughbred horses found and applied to staging purposes. The average weight of an English huzzar, or light Dragoon, fully accoutred and in heavy marching order, is 250 lbs.; that of a heavy Dragoon 280lbs.; and that of a light guardsman, or cuirassier, 308 lbs. Great power is of course required to carry these ponderous masses, but great speed is also required to move them, for unless they can be launched at a tremendous rate, all the horses being so equal in their pace and stride that the line is kept perfectly dressed and even, to the moment when the shock is to be given, the charge is a failure. To attain this immense power and great speed, even for a short time under such crushing weight, in the actual charge, and to combine with it the power of staying long distances, coming again quickly, moving actively, and enduring severe distress, nothing but the highest possible degree of blood that can be combined with bone, size, shape, and action, sufficient to endure such weight, can succeed at all.—This can be and is attained by the crossing choies blood stallions of the proper build and style on properly selected mares to the second or third generation. In the Russian war the light brigade of Lord Cardigan, which made that prodigious charge and retreat, each of a mile and a half, was mounted on horses that were three parts blood. It is safe to say that if they had only been half-bred, not one horse would have got back into the British lines, and if they had not possessed any pure blood at all, they would *all* have been cut down before they reached the Russian batteries.

The heavy brigade of Brigadier General Scarlett, which rode through the Russian troopers in fourfold force, as if they had been lines of pasteboard, were mounted on chargers having two crosses of pure blood, or as nearly so as possible.

Nothing but *blood* could have accomplished either feat; and it is well to remember that when cavalry meets cavalry in the deadly shock, both being equally brave and equally well led, that cavalry which is horsed on chargers of the same weight, but of inferior blood and stride, must go down like grass before the scythe. On the turf contending against each other, on the field of battle facing the death dealing column, on the road at heavy weights with great speed, or under the saddle with heavy weights and long continued high speed, we are convinced by authentic records or observation, of the superior power and speed, endurance and courage, sagacity and attachment of the thoroughbred, and that they only being well qualified for the above uses, they are the best, and the best able, to do *any thing else*. This is the pride and triumph of blood, that it can do *every thing* for which it is intended *quite well*, and that nothing short of it can do so.

7. The horse having and exhibiting evidences of his kindred to the pure blood horse *will always* command a higher price in the market. Ignorance, prejudice, and various other causes, prompt some men (?) to cry down *blood*, yet these very same—in nearly every instance when they have a horse to sell or advertise, take a very short trace to some noted thoroughbred, or exhibit him at an

agricultural fair with a *manufactured pedigree* or a "blacksmith shop bill." We have had "thoroughbred horses" (?) hot a thousand miles away, that were represented as no less than the great grandson of the great English Eclipse himself, and they only about three years of age. There's a better day a coming; the day already dawns, the shadows flee away. Truth crushed to earth will rise again. To the lover of a horse his financial value is only a nominal or secondary consideration; he loves him for his own sake; to him "a thing of beauty is a joy forever;" others regard in their horse great bulk without corresponding excellence, and matter regardless of life or spirit. Let such a one study the subject, search the records, weigh the evidence, reason calmly, and decide with an impartial and unprejudiced mind; not like the man that may say—"I won't believe if you do convince me."

The true office and utility of the thoroughbred horse is to raise the standard of speed, spirit, and endurance, which can result *only from blood*, in horses for all and for every purpose—the road, the hunting field, the shock of the battle, if we must have war; for pomp, show, and beauty; for speed, for courage, for heavy, long continued every-day service, and if bountifully fed, well groomed, carefully housed, and well driven, will endure for many years. To breed judiciously from thoroughbred horses will raise the progeny in excellence, utility, longevity, style, action, beauty, appearance, and value; confine your breeding to grade stock, and instead of improvement, or even "holding your own," your stock will go downwards all the time.

The thoroughbred or pure blood horse, excelling in every good quality, renders them of course more valuable in all respects than the common or cold-blooded horse, and proves conclusively that every person in the community has a deep and abiding interest in aiding in the cultivation of the pure blooded breed.—*Spirit of the Times*.

#### **TABACCO CROP OF VIRGINIA AND N. CAROLINA.**

A correspondent at Lynchburg of the *Richmond Whig*, who claims that he has taken especial pains to inform himself, expresses with great confidence the opinion, that the Tobacco crop of Virginia and North Carolina cannot possibly reach two-thirds of a fair yield, and may be materially less. He thinks it cannot equal the short crop of 1856, and inspected in 1857; and that he has the assurance of a large number of the most intelligent and reliable planters, that the present year's is the shortest crop made for twenty years.

He says further:

As to quality, it will, manifestly, contain, being small, short, stunted, and narrow leaf generally, an exceeding scanty proportion of stemming tobacco, or of suitable English or Mediterranean; and will be mainly and chiefly better adapted for manufacturing than for any other purposes. Except the unripe tobacco, which it is difficult to "place" for any particular purpose, the crop will mostly consist of a short, small, bright, yellow, gummy, perhaps rather bitter article, nubby and scrubby much of it, wholly suited for manufacturing only. And so little stemming, or English leaf, that "the game will hardly be worth the candle" to engage in the purchase of either.

[From Journal of N. Y. State Agricultural Society.]

#### **AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN EUROPE.**

LETTER FROM GOV. WRIGHT.

Berlin, August 6, 1858.

MY DEAR SIR—After an absence of a few days among the best farmers and Agricultural Schools of this country, I comply with my long neglected promise. I had not time to visit Belgium, nor the most southern districts of Germany, where, it is said, Agriculture has reached a great degree of perfection. Should such an opportunity occur, you shall hear from me again.

Most interesting was my visit to Hohenheim, the great Agricultural School of Europe. Its name literally, the *high home*, derived from its position near the summit of a lofty hill, about eight miles from Stuttgart, in the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, suggests at once the ennobling and elevating character of its influence upon all houses that come within its range. An Institution where young men of all ranks and conditions of life, from the son of the poorest peasant to the heir of a Kingdom, are thoroughly, practically and scientifically instructed in those pursuits upon which the essential prosperity of every country depends, I have thought that a brief sketch of its history and its plan of instruction might furnish some useful hints and interesting facts to the farmers of our own State, to whom every thing connected with the progress of agriculture has an importance which can not be too highly estimated.

The estate of Hohenheim, was anciently the possession of a noble family bearing that name, and in the progress of time fell from one hand another, until, in 1768, it became the property of Duke Charles, who enlarged its area, built a handsome modern palace in place of the old castle, and devoted the greater portion of the grounds to agricultural experiments. As a historical fact worth remembering, it may be stated that Duke Charles was the first person in Wurtemberg, to make a practical application of lightening rods to buildings. Under his sagacious and well directed supervision, Hohenheim became one of the most celebrated farms, if I may apply that word to a princely estate, in all Europe; but after his death it was neglected, and gradually reduced to a condition of most deplorable ruin. The palace was deserted, and rapidly fell into decay. The splendid orchards, the fields of grapes and grain, the establishments for rearing of cattle, upon all of which the Duke had lavished the extremest care, were suffered to lose their high rank, and degenerate to the standard of the agriculture of the peasantry.

But in 1817, when the Agricultural Union was founded, and the necessity of a high scientific Institute for the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, was apparent, King William, the present ruler, who has devoted himself to the improvement of the Agriculture of his State, determined to raise Hohenheim from its fallen condition; and though it no longer attracts the wonder and admiration of the traveler by princely magnificence, yet as an institution whose object is the promotion of the physical and moral well-being of the people, it has won, both at home and in foreign countries, a second fame more enviable and enduring than the first.

As at present organized, the Agricultural School at Hohenheim comprises five hundred acres of cul-

tivated soil, and more than five thousand acres of forest. The rooms in the old Ducal Palace have undergone a genuine Democratic transformation into Lecture Halls, Cabinets for various collections, Students' Apartments, and the like. There, under the direction of twelve Professors, selected from all parts of Germany, for the eminence of their scientific and practical attainments, from one to two hundred young men devote themselves to the study of Agriculture, and all the various branches of knowledge theoretically or practically connected therewith. Practical instruction is given in such a manner that each student becomes thoroughly learned in all the departments of knowledge comprised under the general term, Agriculture. But as each pupil must necessarily master all these departments within three years, it is necessary to pursue a certain fixed course of instruction for the gradual practical education of the agriculturist. Hence his first year is devoted to the simpler and lighter duties of the farm, such as fall to the lot of our "chore boys"—gradually proceeding to the harder and more important, such as the preparation of compost, the sowing of gypsum, haying and harvesting, and the like. The second year he learns to manage oxen, to plow, and is obliged in addition to take the whole charge of his team. In the intervals of his severer labors, he must pay attention to the culture of trees, to the storage of different kinds of grain, &c. &c. The third and last year is devoted to the management of the horse, to heavy plowing, to the application of the most improved machinery to farm labor, to sowing, and all the higher departments of Agriculture. In the course of this year, opportunity is afforded for learning the manufacture of sugar, the most improved methods of brewing, &c., and the construction of machines and tools. To conclude the course of practical education, those pupils who have made satisfactory progress, are appointed overseers of the under scholars, and thus have the best opportunity to test the worth and thoroughness of their own culture.

The theoretical department of the School, is perhaps the finest in the world. Every thing is experimentally demonstrated, and no result is officially announced until careful and repeated experiments have determined its soundness. In connection with studies immediately relating to Agriculture, the pupils are instructed in mathematics, mechanics, mineralogy, geology, botany, chemistry, political economy, &c.

In all the departments of the School, theory and practice go hand in hand. The students not only learn the *how*, but the *why* of every operation connected with Agriculture. For example, while learning the practical management of the horse, they must study his whole anatomy, as thoroughly as medical students study the anatomy of the human frame. The Professors illustrate their lectures from skeletons, stuffed specimens, and the most perfect artificial models that can be procured.

My introduction to this celebrated Institution was the hearing of a lecture by Professor Rau, on the manufacture of cheese. I have just remarked, that theory and practice in this School, go hand in hand; and here was a good illustration of the principle. Sixty gallons of milk were placed upon the fire when the lecture began, and the whole process of cheese making was theoretically explained and practically developed. Fifteen

young gentlemen, one of them, if I mistake not the son of a Prince, listened for more than an hour to the Professor's interesting exposition. The lecture was enlivened by pleasant remarks growing out of the subject, and in the course of it the Professor took occasion to combat the idea that English grass, English air, or English fog, combined or severally, are essential to the manufacture of good cheese. He insisted that good milk and a right understanding and application of the best methods, are the only essential conditions in the making, though age is necessary to bring out the finest flavor. If well made and properly cared for, he remarked, cheese will keep good for half a century. It was formerly the custom in parts of Germany, to commemorate the birth of a child by the manufacture of an immense cheese, which was then buried, and kept to be eaten only when the son or daughter to whom it belonged should be married.

From the lecture room I passed, under the guidance of Professor Rau, to the silk rooms, kept solely for experiments, as the silk worm does not thrive in this climate. Thence I went to the Cabinet, where models and specimens of farming implements, of almost every age and description, are to be found. I saw a very curious series of plow models, from the rudest wooden machine of old Roman times, to the latest improved pattern of Starbuck & Son, of New York. The collection would remind you of the Patent Office in Washington.

After passing hurriedly through various collections of stuffed specimens of wild and domestic animals, of different kinds of wood, of curious fabrications, I took a rapid survey of the experimental fields, where all manner of agricultural problems are attempted—such as the effect of this or that soil upon every kind of grain, the effect of different and successive crops upon the same soil, the method of culture best adapted to each several crop, and so on to the end of the list. I can not undertake, within the limits of a single letter, to enumerate all the different crops which I saw growing side by side in these fields. There was Turkish tobacco, Maryland tobacco, Indian corn, many kinds of grain peculiar to our country, either in separate lots or intermixed. These fields are subject to the most careful attention. Every circumstance of growth, success or failure, is noted with great precision and caution. Only after three, four or even five experiments, when there seems to be no room for uncertainty or probability of mistake, do the Directors of the School allow the results of their labors to go forth to the world. Any change from old, well established usage, is regarded with suspicion. Not a fast people, moving slowly, quietly, and firmly, the Germans dislike the hazard of frequent experiments. Most of their farms are so small that the loss of any part of his crop would be a matter of serious importance to a German agriculturist. Hence no results are communicated to the people from the model farm, to which all classes look up, until their perfect utility can be practically demonstrated.

In the spacious stables connected with the School are kept forty milch cows. The management of them is peculiar. They are never let out, even to water, but stand the year round in their roomy, airy, stalls, where they are regularly and systematically fed and tended. I was assured

that by many experiments it has been ascertained that the best food for milch cows during the summer and part of autumn, consisted of cut oats, peas and vetch, raised together and given to them green, as we feed blue grass and clover. Some of these cattle were the most noble specimens of their species I have ever seen.

One thousand sheep are kept upon the farm, principally for their wool. By many careful and minute experiments and calculations in regard to feed, it has been ascertained that the profit realized upon every hundred pounds of hay fed to sheep, is thirty kreutzers, (about twenty cents of our money,) while upon a like amount fed to cattle, the profit is only twenty four kreutzers, (about sixteen cents;) demonstrating a profit of about twenty per cent in favor of sheep, as compared with cattle.

Is it not a strange fact, that our people do not devote more attention to the raising of sheep? By the last census it appears that the number of sheep in our State is less than a million; and if I remember right, one half of the entire value of the live stock of Indiana, according to the census of 1850, at the time consisted of the value of hogs. But if, in this country, sheep are more profitable than cattle, how would it be with us, where land is cheap, and where our well fenced pasture grounds would enable us to dispense with the services of shepherds? It has been well said of the sheep, that he never dies insolvent; his fleece will always pay his cost; his manure is better than that of other animals; he destroys briars and thorns, and in every respect exerts a good influence on the character of vegetation. Wherever he runs, wild grass disappears, and his sure productiveness will always make him a source of profit. With our immense possessions, an extent of territory a hundred times larger than Great Britain, more than sixteen times as large as France, larger, by more than twelve times, than all Germany; and with such a large proportion of this territory well adapted to sheep grazing, is it not most absurd and wicked, that we should continue to import wool to the amount of millions of dollars from those countries, instead of raising it within our own borders?

Great attention is given at Hohenheim, and indeed throughout Germany, to the preservation of the manure and offal of the country. On the "Rothchild Farm," an estate of about 1,300 acres near Frankfort on the Main, one-fourth of which is in grass lands, I found that about 1,200 gulden are expended yearly for city offal, which every night is hauled out in large hogheads. The Batman farm of 500 acres, also near Frankfort, pays a large sum for the blood from the slaughter houses, and in addition is annually enriched with 300 loads of manure. Here it may be stated that Napoleon has laid out twelve additional farms about his military camp at Chalons, in order to turn the little manure and offal of the horses to the best practical account.

In this country, as every where else, the great problem for the agriculturist is this: How to obtain the best manure at such prices and in such quantities, that the poorest land may be made profitably productive? In some districts of Germany, however, the soil is so peculiar that even manure will not combine with it, without the co-operation of other agents. Thus the common lupine, which grows luxuriantly in many parts of

our country, will not only flourish upon sandy plains, where even thistles would die, but imparts to, or develops in the soil a property which enables it to receive nutriment from manure, and thus be prepared to support potatoes, grain and other crops. It has been discovered also that forest trees have this fertilizing property; and accordingly, whole districts may be seen in Germany covered with a low growth of pine, chestnut, or oak, where in a few years the golden harvests will wave and ripen in the sun.

But to return to Hohenheim—the high home! It is now a University, the oldest and most distinguished of its class in Europe, and is under the direct patronage of the King of Wurtemberg, who takes an active personal interest in its success. At this Institution a young man can live comfortably, and enjoy all its advantages, at an annual expense not exceeding four hundred American dollars. Connected with the School is an admirable Agricultural Journal.

With Schools and Universities in our own country, of perhaps equal merit, Hohenheim has many claims upon our attention, not only for its renown, but for the comparison of the systems of agriculture which prevail in the old world and the new. We should prove all things, and hold fast what is good. Discarding both old prejudices and new ones, we should make every year count as one more step forward in the march of agricultural improvement. Would that I could induce some of our young men, who waste too much of their time in Europe in mere pleasure and profitless sight-seeing, to devote a few months and years to the noble studies pursued at the high home! In this way they might do good service to the agricultural interests of their country, something towards investing practical labor with scientific interest. Nor is this all. It is written, man shall not live by bread alone. It is not enough that we have plenty to eat and drink, fine clothing, comfortable houses, and productive farms. Every man owes it to himself, his family, and his country, to cultivate all those qualities, of mind and heart which delight in beautiful objects, which are susceptible of moral and religious growth. And as home is the cradle of all virtues, and as external adornments, especially those natural ones which lie within the reach of every citizen of our favored land, such as trees, shrubs, flowers, tasteful lawns, arbors, and trellises, are among the strongest means of making home attractive, it should be the desire and the labor of all good men to diffuse throughout the community a sentiment of regard for rural works and pastimes. To do this lies within the power of no one man or woman: all should make it their object, and he who labors most will have the satisfaction of knowing that he has faithfully done his part towards accomplishing the great work of the age.

Man must work, he must labor. But he may work willingly, or as a machine; he may work cheerfully, or as a slave. Labor, undirected by knowledge of the great principles which govern the development of the soil, is always slavish.—It is the grand design of Agricultural Schools, to lead the tiller of the soil to take an intelligent interest in all the wonderful processes of nature which continually pass before his eyes, in order that, with his powers of observation thus quickened, and all the better faculties of his mind aroused and exercised, he may make every hour of

labor attractive, and add new grace, refinement and happiness to his home.

The nation must look for true wisdom and strength to the education which controls and shapes the home policy of the family circle. Let us then define patriotism, true patriotism, to consist in love of home. There can be no love of country where there is no love of home; and on the contrary, show me a man who loves to adorn his home with those peaceful and refined charms which God designed it should possess, and I can show you a good citizen, an honest patriot, and a true man.

Accept for yourself the esteem and respect,

Of your friend,  
JOSEPH A. WRIGHT.

B. P. JOHNSON, Esq., Secretary, &c.

#### FALL MANURING.

At the November meeting of the Philadelphia Farmers' Club, the principal item of conversation was the subject of Fall Manuring.

Mr. BLIGHT expressed himself favorable to the application of manure in the autumn, to remain upon the surface through the winter, on such lands as were intended for corn or other spring crops. He said that the practice had, in that neighborhood, been pretty generally adopted, and from his experience and observation, he was led to believe that it possessed advantages over spring manuring.

Mr. LANDRETH united in this opinion, so far as he was capable of judging, from some experience in this mode of application. He thought that it was in accordance with common sense, that the land should be additionally benefitted by this over the common mode of hauling out manure and covering it at once. With much manure, in some seasons, the decomposition would not sufficiently be progressed to benefit the young plant when it needs support the most. Beside, the protecting of the surface against the effects of the sun and wind—the constant changing of temperature, in freezing and thawing, was of much advantage, to say nothing of the enriching influences of the manure which for portions of the year would be finding their way into the soil, long before the haulm of the application would be turned into fulfil its office.

Dr. ELWYN was quite decided in his approval of fall manuring for corn or top dressing grass lands. He has never heard of it giving dissatisfaction, but was quite averse to making the application upon rolling or rather hilly lands, as upon them there would be much loss from washing, &c.

Mr. SHERIDAN differed in his views as to the advantages of fall manuring, with all the preceding gentlemen. He had not particularly experimented, but he had not yet been convinced that the spreading of manure upon the surface in the autumn, to remain through the winter, exposed to the sun, rain and winds, would not seriously interfere with the effects of the manure. He said the land required all the genial warmth of the sun; during winter, and doubted that any benefit from shading it, at this period, would make up for the losses. His practice had been to haul out all his manure as fast as it accumulated, fresh from the stables, and plow it under as soon as possible. He said he hauled from the city one

thousand dollars' worth of manure annually, beside purchasing wood-ashes at the limekilns, lime, &c.; but all was buried out of sight at once. He admitted that he had found benefit from top-dressing grass-lands in the fall, and approved the application so far as that description of crop was concerned. Mr. Sheridan, it is well known, has perhaps the largest, and assuredly one of the very best farms in the rural wards of Philadelphia, and his experience has been very extensive.

Mr. LANDRETH replied and said that there was no evaporation, or loss of the volatile portions of the manure during the winter months. It required a certain amount of heat to produce evaporation which did not exist during this period.

Gen. PATTERSON had no doubt of the good effects of shading the ground for three or four months of the year, when it could not be used for any of the purposes of farming. He stated that it was a very common practice among the sugar-growers of Louisiana, when the land became exhausted by over-cropping, to intermit a single year the sugar cane, and instead put in a heavy crop of peas, broadcast, which densely covered the entire surface, shading the land completely, and which was left unharvested until a late period. The effect was almost magical. The soil was surprisingly renovated; apparently as affluent as it ever was; and again produced the cane abundantly for many consecutive years.

Mr. FREAS, who introduced the topic, had no doubt of the good effects and advantages of top-dressing land in the fall, intended for corn or other spring crops requiring manure. He said some of the best farmers in Montgomery county had for a number of years adopted this system, and they found that they could obtain better crops and the ground was left in better condition than by the old system. Another advantage was, that the autumn was a season of more leisure to perform this work than the spring, which is sometimes very brief, when every thing has to be hurried, and the labor of conveyance increased from the condition of the ground. He said that upon a visit to Chester county, in the hay-making season; he noticed that those farmers whose premises he had visited, did not use a rake in their hay-fields. The hay which the common hay-fork did not gather was left scattered over the field, and when the cause of it was inquired, the reply was, that the quantity so left in the field was of more advantage by far to the land, in shading the grass and protecting the roots, than in the mows. Other topics were broached, and talked over, but of which your reporter took no notes.—*German-town Telegraph*

#### GREAT DEMAND FOR PEACH TREES.

The following, from a correspondent of the Cecil county Whig, is only one of the many evidences that have come to our knowledge of an unusually large demand for Peach Trees the present Fall, produced, in part, by the general failure of the peach crop the past season:

"The Messrs. Morton & Martin are now planting some 30,000 Peach Trees on the Round Top property, lying on Chester River, 2½ miles above Chestertown. This number of trees will occupy about 300 acres of land. More of their neighbors would plant peach orchards if the trees could be obtained."

## LAND SALES.

### MARYLAND.

**Carroll Co.**—Sold at Public Auction, the Farm on which the late Micajah Stansbury resided, containing 120 acres, more or less, at \$47.85 per acre. The farm is situated about four miles from Westminster, on the Littlestown turnpike, Jacob Myer, ly, purchaser. Also sold at public sale, a tract of land, situated on the Manchester road, about two miles from Westminster, principally Woodland, containing 118 acres at \$12 per acre, Wm. Keefler, purchaser.—*Sentinel*.

The Real Estate of the late Henry Nafe, located about 5 miles from Westminster, was sold at public sale as follows:—The home farm, containing 79½ acres, to John Trine, at \$25 50 per acre. Lot No. 2, containing 27 acres, at \$25 62½ per acre, to Adam Zimmerman. No. 3, containing 6 acres, at \$31 35 per acre, to John A. Brown. No. 4, containing 8 acres, at \$28 16 per acre, to William Miller; the whole amounting in the aggregate to the gross sum of \$3,163.71.—*Sentinel*.

**Cecil Co.**—The Sheriff sold 37 acres of land and tavern stand, near Harrisville, property of the late Leonard Krauss, for \$1,000, cash; Joseph Krauss, purchaser.—*Whig*.

**Dorchester Co.**—Thomas Vickers, Esq., sold at public sale, his farm on Fishing Creek, containing 69½ acres, to Benjamin F. Lecompte, for \$4,500. 85 acres of wood land was offered by the same and was bid in at \$22 per acre.

John L. Thomas, Esq., has sold his farm, near Cambridge, to Dr. Wm. H. Rogers, of Baltimore, for \$2,400, one thousand dollars cash. It contains 120 acres of land, with but few improvements on it.—*Herald*.

The house and lot in Cambridge, the residence of the late James Dixon, and 163 acres of land adjoining the town, were bought by Dr. J. W. Henry, of Vienna; at \$1,500 for the house, and \$26 an acre for the land.

**Frederick Co.**—Sold at auction, the Farm on which Wm. Graham now resides, on the Merryland Tract, containing 118 acres at \$55 per acre—purchaser Edward Renehan, of Ellicotts Mills.—*Cit.*

**Howard Co.**—The farm of 300 acres, with improvements, situated upon the Frederick turnpike, twenty-two miles from Baltimore, and three from the Baltimore and Ohio railroad at Hood's mills, known as Asbury Peddicord's place, was sold at public sale on Tuesday for the sum of \$7,600; purchaser Mr. Eli Peddicord. Also the farm of 220½ acres, with improvements, three miles from Frederick turnpike, adjoining the lands of Gen. Tyson and others, for the sum of \$3,605; purchaser Mr. Robert Feinour, of Baltimore county.

Mr. H. Pue, has sold his farm on Clarksville Road, containing 137 acres, to Mr. Wilson McBee, for the sum of \$4,000.—*Enterprise*.

**Kent Co.**—Mr. George Vickers of Chestertown, sold four farms at Church Hill on the 10th inst.; they sold very low: price from \$10 to \$20 per acre. This is the place to buy cheap farms. This county is improving very fast the last year or two: the use of lime in Kent and Queen Ann's has had a wonderful effect on the crops.—*Cecil Whig*.

**Prince George's Co.**—The Mount Welby estate, nearly opposite Alexandria, in Washington county, consisting of about 234 acres, to Mr. George Mattingly. The sum named is \$12,000. The estate of

the late Joseph J. Jones, near Vansville, Prince George's county, for \$16,000, a little over \$42 per acre. Purchased by Messrs. Linthicum, of Anne Arundel county.

**Queen Anne's county.**—"Moore" farm on South East creek, containing 253 acres, with improvements, sold for \$5,053; purchased by Mr. John Evans.

"Primrose" farm, on Chester river, containing 310 acres, with improvements, sold for \$3,500; purchased by Mr. Burchenal, of Chestertown.

The "Primrose" farm, adjoining the above, containing 225 acres, with improvements, sold for \$3,500; purchased by Mr. Joseph Catlin.

The above is said to be the cheapest property sold in the county for a long time.

**Washington Co.**—Mr. Abraham Strite, sold at Trustee's sale, a farm of 103 acres and 136 perches, lying in the Leitersburg District, to Mr. John Strite, Jr., for the sum of \$80 per acre. Mr. Christian Strite and others, Executors, of Joseph Strite, deceased, also sold the real estate of said deceased, lying 1½ miles Northwest of Leitersburg, in the following parcels with the prices annexed:—

Tract No. 1, 95 acres and 130 perches to Mr. Samuel Snider, for \$65 per acre; No. 2, containing 14 acres and 73 perches, to Charles D. Wageman, for \$90 per acre; No. 3, containing 1 acre 84 perches, to John Criner, for \$125.75; No. 4, containing 2 acres and 12 perches, to same purchaser for \$75 per acre; No. 5, containing 1 acre and 140 perches, to Samuel Snider, for \$150; and No. 6, containing 4 acres and 98 perches, to Samuel Mitchell for \$67.40 per acre.—*Mail*.

### DELAWARE.

**New Castle Co. and Kent Co.**—D. T. Rickards, Real Estate Agent and Auctioneer, at Dover, Del., has sold for Paris and Brown, of Leipzig, to A. R. Pennington, of Middletown, a fine piece of timber land known as the "Lawyer Tract," containing 90 acres, in Appoquinimink Hundred, New Castle Co., for \$2,350. Also for J. C. Arrison, of Philadelphia, to Jas H. Burnham, of St. George's Hundred, in this county, a farm containing 315 acres, in Kent county, for \$12,000.

John Hollingsworth, of New Castle county, Del., has sold his farm to Lewis Miller, of East Marlborough tp., Chester county, Pa., for \$9,000.—*Republican*.

### VIRGINIA.

**King George Co.**—Mr. S. J. S. Brown, of King George county, Va., recently sold his farm, known as Woodlawn, adjoining the Court House, and containing 309 acres, to Mr. James Arnold, for \$3,000.—*Richmond Dispatch*.

**Roanoke Co.**—The estate owned by William M. Peyton, in Roanoke county, Va., known as "Eldorado," with the stock, farming utensils and wheat seeded, has been sold for \$43,000 to Benj. T. Tinsley, of Richmond.—*Richmond Dispatch*.

**Montgomery Co.**—Capt. Robert Gibboney, of Wytheville, has purchased the farm belonging to Dr. Jas. Kent, at Shawsville, Montgomery county, Va., for the sum of \$30,000. The tract contains about 1000 acres.—*Richmond Dispatch*.

### PENNSYLVANIA.

The following sales are reported in the *Bucks County Intelligencer*, which paper mentions a great advance in the price of farming land in that county this year, and says that nearly twice as much has

been sold this year as last, and at better prices, and estimates the total increased value of lands in the county during the present year, at nearly four millions of dollars:

Judge Jenks has sold the farm occupied by his son, Michael E. Jenks, in Middletown, containing 117½ acres of land, at private sale, to David Krewson, of Northampton, for \$115 per acre.

Isaac Mason's farm of 25 acres in Wrightstown, has been sold to John Connard, for \$2,525.

The farm of Reuben Haas, in Doylestown township, was sold at public sale, to Jonathan and Adam Opdycke—reported price \$3,400.

John and M. Carver have sold their farm of 137 acres, in Byberry, at public sale, to Edward Croasdale, for \$115 per acre.

Five acres of woodland, on the farm of James B. Palmer, in Lower Makefield, were sold on the 11th inst., for \$984.34—nearly \$200 per acre.

The farm of John Jamison, deceased, in Warwick, containing 95 acres, was sold at public sale, to A. Connard, of Labaska, for \$71.50 per acre.

The property of John Hockman, dec'd, near Dublin, containing 50 acres, has been sold to Albert Phillips, for Aaron Hockman, for \$76 per acre.

The property of James Jones, deceased, in New Britain, containing 35 acres, has been sold by Esq. Albright, to Francis Harton, for \$34 per acre.

John Kramer, of Hilltown, has sold his farm of 76¼ acres, to Abraham Nonnemaker, \$67.63 per acre.

The real estate of Isaac Cassel, deceased, in Hilltown, has been sold as follows:—No. 1, containing 90½ acres was sold to Joseph Henricks, for \$55.25 per acre. No. 2, containing 6 acres, with buildings, sold to Jacob Henricks, for \$1,000.

The old Montanye property in Southampton, we learn, has recently been sold at \$125 per acre.

The Hart property, in Westminster township, containing 105 acres and 140 perches, was sold at public sale, on Thursday last, to Thomas Wynkoop, for \$109 per acre.

The farm of 38 acres of Josiah Rich, deceased, in Buckingham, was recently sold to William F. Rich, for \$60 per acre.

Charles M. Blaker has sold his farm in Buckingham, containing 50 acres, to Seneca Fallis, Jr., for \$4,600.

The farm of Cyrus Trego, in Solebury, containing 75 acres was sold at public sale, to William S. Large, for \$63 per acre.

George W. Carver has sold his farm in Solebury, containing 117 acres, to a Philadelphian, for about \$100 per acre.

Alfred Ely, of Solebury, sold his farm containing 53 acres, early in the fall, to Thomas Naylor, for \$5000.

Elizabeth Connard has sold 53 acres of land in Newtown township, with buildings, to Samuel Hillborn, of Upper Makefield, for \$4000.

Charles Knight has sold 24 acres of his farm, in Byberry, to John Bowman, for \$2400.

George Yonker has sold his farm, in Middletown, near Attleborough, containing 56 acres, to William Hawk, of that village, for \$62 per acre.

The farm of Catherine Doron, at Hatborough, containing 26½ acres, was sold at public sale on the 14th instant, to a Philadelphian of the name of Smith, for a few dollars less than \$7000.

John Wildman has purchased the farm of Moses Winder, in Middletown, containing 151½ acres, for \$90.60 per acre.

Lancaster Co.—Sheriff Rowe sold the farm of Peter Shirk, in Earl township, consisting of 20 acres with improvements, sold for \$195 per acre. Isaac Martin, purchaser.

A tract of land, situate partly in Sadsbury twp., Lancaster county, and partly in Sadsbury township, Chester county, containing 49 acres and 11 perches, with a two-story store dwelling house, large barn, &c., property of Christian Umble and Henry Umble, sold to Joseph Blank for \$3,200—*Examiner*.

Delaware Co.—The estate late of Benjamin Thomas, dec'd, in Nether Providence, consisting of 55 acres, was sold by William Eves, Trustee, to make sale, to Jeremiah Bonsall, of Philadelphia, for \$126.50 per acre.

Chester Co.—The following sales are reported by the West Chester Village Record:

A farm of 111 acres, in Schuylkill township, Chester county, belonging to Benjamin Penny-packer, was sold at Public Sale, to Samuel Acker, of Tredyffrin, for \$118.50 per acre.

One hundred and thirteen acres, belonging to the estate of John Hampton, dec'd, in Charlestown township, was sold at public sale, to James Bones, of Lancaster county, at \$100 per acre.

At the Assignees' sale of the Real Estate of William Marshall Swayne, in East Marlborough township, three tracts sold as follows:—

No. 1, containing 140 acres, to Wm. Entriiken, of West Chester, at \$110.50 per acre; No. 2, containing 24 acres, to Joel J. Swayne, East Marlborough, at \$80.37½ per acre.

C. M. Wheatly, of Charlestown township, sold 80 acres, a few days since, to Thomas E. Hampton, of the same neighborhood, at \$75 per acre.

The farm of 160 acres, of Wilson Brown, of Honeybrook, has been sold at public sale, to James Worrell, of the same township, at \$40 per acre.

By J. G. King, auctioneer, Estate of Conrad March, dec'd, his farm in West Pikeland, Chester county, containing 105 acres, to John Yeager, Jr., of East Pikeland, for \$72.60 per acre.

The Lancaster Examiner says that the farm of Enos Diller, in Leacock township, consisting of 50 acres with improvements, was sold for \$180 per acre.

The "Black Horse" tavern in Paradise twp., together with 100 acres of land, was sold for \$130.25 per acre. George Byler, purchaser.

The farm of Michael K. Lapp, in Leacock twp., containing 44 acres, with improvements, sold for \$190 per acre. Benjamin Greider, purchaser.

The property of Michael Sweigart, in Leacock township, consisting of 12 acres of land, with improvements, sold for \$4,000. Jno. Groff, purchaser.

The farm of Mr. Eaby, in Salisbury township, consisting of 83 acres of land, with improvements, sold for \$156 per acre. George Worst, purchaser.

The correspondent, to whom we are indebted for the above, thinks that thus far, land in Leacock township, has sold at a higher price than in any other section.

Land of Elias Hall, dec'd, of East Nantmead—No. 1, of a farm containing 48 acres, to Thomas Wynn, Esq., of the same township, for \$77.50 per acre.—No. 2, containing 23 acres, to Wm. Nesley, of the same township, for \$ .00 per acre. No buildings.—No. 3, vacant land, containing 24 acres

to Follist Guest, of the same township, for \$68.50 per acre.—No. 4, vacant land, containing 27 acres, to Geo. Christman, of South Coventry, for \$75.50 per acre.

Mr. John A. Pennypacker, of North Coventry township, Chester county, has sold his farm, containing 36 acres, to Mr. Solomon Kepner, of East Coventry township. Price, about \$4,000.

The farm of Elihu Barnard, dec'd, of Upper Oxford, containing about 75 acres, was sold by the Adm'r, to George Ladley, of West Chester, for \$65 per acre.

SALES BY JES. G. KING, Auc'r.—Eight acres in East Vincent, belonging to Samuel Diemer, dec'd, to Ann Walters, of same township, for \$1675.

A Chesnut lot of same estate in South Coventry, to Philip Hoffman, 4 acres, for \$28.50 per acre.

A two-acre Wood Lot, in East Vincent, same estate, to John Longaker, of same township, for \$103 per acre.

Another Lot of eight acres, part Wood, same estate, to John Longaker, for \$105 per acre.

84 acres, belonging to the Miss Lattas, situated in the Valley, near the Valley Store Station, on the Chester Valley Railroad, was sold to Jacob B. Stubblebine, for \$10,040.

130 acres in Colerain township, Lancaster Co., belonging to Thomas S. Jackson, was sold to H. Jackson, of West Chester, for \$75 per acre.

House and 18 acres near Unionville, Chester Co., belonging to William W. Jackson, was sold to Thomas S. Jackson, for \$3000.

The farm of Jacob Beam, dec'd, of Honeybrook, containing 28 acres, to George S. Goog, of same township, for \$2200.

The farm belonging to Lydia Brinton and sisters, in Pennsbury township, containing about 250 acres, was recently sold by H. Buckwalter, Real Estate Agent, to Maris Hoopes, of Lancaster county, for over \$25,000.

#### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA.

It is understood that the petition to the Legislature, of the Farmers' Assembly, asking of that honorable body the passage of an act instructing the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia, to accept the donation of twenty thousand dollars of the bonds of the University, which had been proffered for the endowment of a Professorship of Agriculture, and to inaugurate such a Professor in that institution, failed to obtain the sanction of the Legislature, and that this particular scheme, therefore, must be abandoned as impracticable.

It is now proposed to build up an Agricultural College for Virginia, to be located near the University, having its own college buildings—its own independent organization and Board of Visitors.

As a beginning, a large house, formerly located for a hotel, together with a lot of four acres appertaining to the same, and all within a few hundred yards of the University—the lot and house valued at ten thousand dollars at least—and the building readily susceptible, by slight alterations and improvements, of being fitted up as a residence for a Professor—into the necessary lecture rooms, and an ample chemical laboratory in the basement. This property will be given in fee-simple for the use of the College—and twenty thousand dollars of the University six per cent. bonds will also be

given as an endowment of a Professorship of Agriculture in the new College.

Upon condition, however, that the Farmers of the State will, in the course of the next two years or earlier, from this date, contribute fifty thousand dollars to the funds of the College—twenty thousand dollars of which shall be invested as the endowment of a second Professorship, and the remaining thirty thousand to be expended in building—in the purchase of apparatus, and in other necessary outfits of the College; and provided further, that an act of incorporation shall be obtained at the next session of the Legislature for the proposed College—to be located as above indicated—with a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees, as in the case of other Colleges. The first Board to be elected and appointed by the contributors to the funds of the College. The corporation to have the right to hold property to the amount of \$500,000 in buildings, lands, vested funds, library, apparatus, &c.

Deeds will be immediately and duly executed, both for the house and lot and the bonds above mentioned, and deposited with the Hon. Wm. C. Rives and Wm. H. Macfarland, Esq., as trustees, binding the parties and their heirs to convey the absolute right and title to the above property and the Trustees of the College, upon the fulfilment and at the time of the consummation of the conditions above specified.—*Richmond Whig.*

The above we presume is a renewal in a different form of the very liberal proposition of Philip St. George Cocke, Esq., to contribute \$20,000 to the purposes of Agricultural Education in Virginia. We heartily wish success to the undertaking.—*Ed. Am. Far.*

ARRIVAL OF THOROUGH BREED STOCK.—The thorough bred stock recently purchased in England by Mr. M. H. Keene, for A. K. Richards and himself, reached this place on Saturday from Liverpool, via Philadelphia, at which latter place they arrived several weeks since. The following embrace the list:

Spilletta, a two year old ch. f. by Stockwell, out of Olivia Augusta by Cowl, grand dam Maria by Belshazzer, g. g. dam, the dam of Melbourne.

Emilia, (dam of Cordelia, Biron, and other winners,) by Young Emelius, out of Persian by Whisker; with a ch. c. foal by West Australian, and served by Fazzoletto.

Bay Mare by Lanercost, out of The Nun, by Cotton, with a b. c. foal by Stockwell, and served by the Flying Dutchman.

Melrose, by Melbourne, out of Clarkia, by Mulley Moloch, with a ch. f. foal by Rifleman, and served by him again.

The following names are claimed for the foals: Millington, for the ch. c. by West Australian, out of Emilia.

Hillsborough, b. c. by Stockwell, dam by Lanercost, out of The Nun by Cotton.

Target, b. f. Rifleman, out of Melrose, by Melbourne.

Spilletta, we understand, is owned by Messrs. Richards and Keene in common, the remainder are the property of Mr. Richards.—*Georgetown (Ky.) Gazette, 4th.*

—Necessity has no law, but an uncommon number of lawyers.

# AMERICAN FARMER.

Baltimore, December 1, 1858.

## TERMS OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Per Annum, \$1 in advance—6 copies for \$5—13 copies for \$10—30 copies for \$30.

ADVERTISEMENTS.—For 1 square of 8 lines, for each insertion, \$1—1 square per annum, \$10—larger advertisements in proportion—for a page, \$100 per annum; a single insertion, \$15, and \$19 50 for each subsequent insertion, not exceeding five.

N. B. WORTHINGTON,

Publisher of the "American Farmer,"

CARROLL HALL, on the South-east corner of Baltimore and Calvert streets, Baltimore.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We have received from J. E. Williams, Esq., Secretary to the Virginia State Agricultural Society, the first three volumes of the Transactions of that Society. From a friend in North Carolina but whose name did not accompany the gift, we have received a copy of the transactions of North Carolina State Agriculture Society, for 1857.—The volume contains the annual address delivered by J. L. Bridgers, Esq., of Edgecombe, and some very valuable essays on horizontal ploughing and hill-side ditching, particularly an essay by Dr. N. T. Sorsby, of Alabama. From J. H. Wallace, Esq., Secretary of the Iowa State Agricultural Society we have received the report of the Proceedings of that Society for 1855, 1856 and 1857. From Messrs. Luther Tucker & Son, we have received the "*Illustrated Annual Register of Rural Affairs for 1859.*" This interesting little Annual contains a great variety of useful information in a small and convenient compass, is abundantly illustrated with excellent engravings and its small cost, 25cts. places it within reach of every one. The present number equals in interest any of its predecessors, and, as it contains an excellent almanac besides its other attractions, should be on every farmer's table. We are indebted to W. K. Scofield, of Stamford, Connecticut, for specimens of seed of the "Green Citron Muskmelon" and of the "Mountain Sweet Watermelon"—and to Messrs. Jacob Heald & Sons, of Baltimore, for specimens of "Yara," "Havana" and "Connecticut seed" Tobacco—We desire to return our thanks for specimens of the "Vandevere," "Isaac's Seedling," "White Ananias," "Yellow Bellflower," "Fall Pearmain," "Winter Jannett," "Albemarle Pippin," "Limber Twig," "Wine Sap" and "Wallace's Seedling," presented to us during our recent visits to the U. S. Fair at Richmond and the Seaboard Society's Fair at Norfolk, Va., by Messrs. Joab S. Toombs & Bro., of Mechem's River, Albemarle Co. Va., and to a friend in Norfolk, Va., for a specimen of the "Nickajack," a noted southern apple. We have received from D. M. Dewey, Bookseller of

Rochester, N. Y., his catalogue of coloured plates of 184 varieties of Fruit and Flowers published by him for the use of Nurserymen and their agents. As we have received no specimens of these plates we cannot pronounce upon their merits.

NURSERY CATALOGUES RECEIVED.—We have received the Catalogue of Fruit Trees for sale at the Nursery of Richard Reynolds, Red Point, near Smithfield, Isle of Wight County, Virginia. The Catalogue of Fruit Trees for sale at the nursery of Dixon W. Kitchen, Barber's X Roads, Isle of Wight Co., Va. The Catalogue of Fruit Trees, &c., for sale by L. Tudor, Southern Greenwood Nurseries, Richmond, Va. Catalogue of Green House Plants, Evergreens, Ornamental Trees, Roses and Shrubs for sale by James Guest, at Hollywood Nursery, Richmond, Va., also the Catalogue of Fruit Trees, for sale by the same.—Catalogue of Fruit Trees for sale by Jos. Sinton & Sons, Henrico Co., Va., within 3 miles of the city of Richmond, on the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad. Catalogue of Roses, Carnations, &c., for sale by John Morton, Grace St. Garden, Shockoe Hill, Richmond, Va., and the Catalogue of Fruit Trees, Grape Vines, &c., cultivated at the Virginia Nurseries, 1½ miles West of Richmond, Va., by James Via.

From Dr. W. H. Coffin & Co. of the Ocean House Drug Store, Portsmouth, Va., who offer for sale a great variety of seeds and fruit trees we have received the descriptive catalogue of the American Seed Garden, at Wethersfield, Conn., by Johnson, Robbins & Co.

MODELS.—In addition to a very handsome model of a window, showing the application in old houses of Johnson's "*Improved mode of Balancing Window Sash*," we have received and have on exhibition at our Office, a model of "*Phelps' Patent Combination Bee-Hive*" presented to us at the recent Virginia State Fair at Petersburg, Va., by A. S. Maddox of Richmond, who is assignee of the Patent for the State of Virginia. We saw a hive of this kind in successful use in the office of the Southern Planter in Richmond; the bees having access to the hive, but not to the room, by a small aperture in the bottom of the window sash. We have also received, from Messrs. J. Montgomery & Bro., of 155 N. High Street, Baltimore, the inventors and manufacturers, a beautifully made and admirably working model of their well known "*Double Screened Rockaway Grain Fan*," which has taken premiums at so many fairs. We would suggest to inventors and patentees, that, from its very central situation and the large number of persons interested in agriculture and horticulture who visit it, the office of the American Farmer is, perhaps, the best place in Baltimore where they could leave small models for exhibition.

**OUR CABINET.**—During our visits to the late Agricultural Fairs in Maryland and Virginia, we have added largely to our collection; and would be much obliged to any of our numerous friends and subscribers, for contributions of anything that they may deem remarkable, and deserving the attention of the agriculturist. Specimens of the cereals, of insects, of minerals, of grasses, of fruits or of flowers, we shall always be happy to receive. We have made already quite a handsome collection of varieties of wheat, maize, and oats, and other grains, and of various grasses; of rice; of several varieties of cotton in the boll; of numerous varieties of tobacco; of various kinds of beans; and of sundry natural fertilizers. If our friends will lend us their aid, we hope ere long to have an Agricultural Museum worthy the name, and deserving the careful examination of men of science, and of agriculturists generally.

**"LITTLE PILGRIM."**—We call attention to the advertisement of the Publishers of this excellent Children's Paper, edited by Grace Greenwood.—The children amidst the vast amount of trash published, are fortunate in being able to get a paper of their own; combining amusement and instruction suitable to their years, and entirely unexceptionable in its character.

**SATURDAY EVENING POST.**—We call attention to the advertisement of this well established and popular Family Newspaper. The enterprising publishers it will be seen, have procured for the coming year contributions from the ready pen of the favorite novelist Mr. G. P. R. James.

✂ **Mr. Jonathan Warner, of Harford County,** has left us at our office a specimen of tall corn, which we suppose can hardly be excelled. He was good enough to take off the tops, otherwise we could not well have taken it in. It measures full nine feet to the junction of the ear and would require we think that a man should ride a high horse to top it. We mention the height only as remarkable and not by way of commendation.—We agree with our man John, who finding himself somewhat exercised in saving fodder thought that there was no use in having corn so high "a fellow has to jump up to pull the blades." Still if the corn will grow so, as seems to be the case with Mr. Warner's, what can be done?

But the ears of this corn are little less remarkable, averaging more than one to the stalk, on hills standing  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet each way and planting about 7, 500 stalks to the acre, and the ear measuring 12 to 14 inches in length with fourteen to sixteen rows. We hope hereafter to have something to say of Mr. Warner's farm management.

## HOW FARMING WILL PAY—FARM ACCOUNTS.

The season which closes up the year's operations is the most appropriate perhaps for entering upon a system of account keeping. It is a season of more leisure to the working man. The long evenings afford him the opportunity of digesting his plan, and on the whole he can do it now with most convenience to himself. Every business man should know and be able to show what his business is worth. It is very often said thoughtlessly, that farming is a poor business—it does not pay. We don't know any occupation that does pay when followed ignorantly, and niggardly, and unskilfully. It does not indeed pay the man who knows nothing about it.—It does not pay the man who is too stingy or too timid to spend money to buy proper implements to work with, or sufficient team, or labor to do his work, or manure to feed his crops and improve his land. It does not pay him who does not know how to use the team and labour and manure and mis-uses and mis-employs them. But that with a reasonable degree of intelligence, a liberal use of means and a moderately skilful application of all needful appliances, it pays more surely and in the long run better than any other ordinary pursuit, we have very little doubt. Intelligent men should satisfy their own minds on this point by keeping carefully their accounts, and should be able to convince others that it is not the fault of the business, that it does not pay, but of the sort of people who too often follow it. As long as the silly notion prevails, that the man who is too stupid or too ignorant for any other business is fit to manage a farm; as long as men think commonly that the cultivation of his mind spoils a farmer, and that "common sense," which is too often uncommon ignorance, is quite sufficient for his guidance; as long as it is believed that a prudent farm economy consists in the most rigid avoidance of expenditure, except for more land, and the most diligent sale of every saleable commodity, except land; farming will prove too often unprofitable. It will always be profitable to him who conducts it as intelligent men do any other business, with a right use of the right means.

But to return to our accounts, as to which we propose to make a few suggestions which may be useful to some of our readers. Presuming that the farm is supplied with all necessary live stock for the purposes proposed in cultivation, with implements, tools, &c., the first question is what is the value of your investment, and next what interest should it pay? Put a fair estimate upon your land; what you might reasonably expect it to bring if sold, and be satisfied with five per cent. per annum of its value. Of live stock, implements, &c., a careful inventory should be made, putting fair prices on every item, and charge these on account of their perishable nature with ten per cent. That is you are to expect your land to pay you five per cent and the re-

remainder of your investment ten per cent. after satisfying all proper costs and charges for cultivation.

Now estimate such crops as you may have on hand. There is some difficulty about this, and for this reason it may be better to let the account begin and close at a period when there is usually the least amount of crop unsold. This would be usually about 1st of June, when the old crops would be on hand and the new not yet harvested. Still the difficulty is by no means insuperable. There are few farmers who do not know the number of barrels of corn they have housed. The crop of wheat is by this time usually sold. Hay and straw and corn fodder can be readily estimated in the stack or rick. With a tobacco crop there is more difficulty. Yet the planter knows, of course, the number of hills planted, and soon learns to form a pretty fair judgment from the average growth, of the quantity he has housed. His opinion will be modified by the character of the season of growth as to the weight of the crop—very quick growth and frequent rains, especially in the latter part of the season, affecting the weight materially. The crop is to be valued too as it hangs in the house; the after operations of stripping and packing, not now estimated. The farm now is to be charged with the value of every thing found upon it, whether for home consumption or to be sold hereafter in the market; with every bushel of meal, every pound of bacon, every barrel of apples. It is to be charged too with every item of expenditure in the course of the year, for hired labor, for food, or any other necessary purpose. It will owe you at the end of the year, five per cent. of its own value, ten per cent. of the value of stock, &c., the full value of the crops, &c., on hand now, (either in kind or in money,) and all current costs, besides paying for your own superintendence. It is likewise chargeable with the crop of wheat in the ground, cost of seed, of preparing ground, and putting it in, and price of manures if bought.

To meet these demands upon it, the farm is entitled to credit: first, for the rent of the house you live in; it is a part of its estimated value. Then for all the provision it furnishes you, at their value at the nearest market, after deducting the cost of carrying to market: every peck of potatoes, or of turnips, every head of cabbage, every bushel of meal, every dozen of eggs, every chicken and every turkey. Keep this account honestly and do not expect the farm to furnish you with house rent and provision for a large family, and grumble if it does not pay you besides full interest on your investment. It will be entitled to credit for the price of the crop of tobacco when sold, for any extra corn, hay, fodder, pork, bacon, poultry, or whatever may be sold. For the price of the crop of wheat, and for the estimated value of all crops on hand at the close of the season. We do not think it necessary to go more into detail. We only ask our readers to keep

faithful accounts, either in accordance with these suggestions, or by any method which may suit them. It will give them new interest in their business, and will not only make the profits more apparent, but make them greater, by the increased attention and care it will enlist.

#### ELIDE ISLAND GUANO.

We have received from Prof. Campbell Murd, his analysis of a fourth cargo of this new and valuable Guano, recently brought to New York in the ship "Challenger." It appears as an appendix to the interesting paper upon this subject, from the same high authority, in the preceding number of the Farmer—and we will only remark, that these analyses are not mere inspections or commercial assays, but full, chemical examinations, showing the exact composition of the substance.

[For the American Farmer.]

CHEMICAL LABORATORY,  
No. 19 E. 13th st., Near University Place,  
New York, November 4, 1858.

Chemical Examination of *ELIDE GUANO*, cargo of the Ship "Challenger," October 28, 1858.

RESULT.	PER CT.
Water.....	92.0
Sand and Silica.....	3.0
Organic Matter, insoluble.....	0.75
Organic Matter, soluble.....	3.75
Uric Acid.....	3.0
Producing Ammonia.....	12.10
Chlorine.....	1.75
Sulphuric Acid.....	5.6
Phosphoric Acid.....	14.0
Equivalent to Bone Phosphate Lime.....	32.06
Carbonic Acid.....	2.0
Potassa.....	2.0
Soda.....	2.0
Making Alkaline Salts.....	4.95
Lime.....	11.0
Magnesia.....	1.0
	99.4

#### SYRUP FROM THE SORGHUM.

Mr. James S. Webster, of Harford Co., has left at our office a specimen of Syrup, made from Sugar Millet grown the past year. He informs us that he made upwards of ninety gallons of Syrup from about an acre of the cane.

The Syrup left with us is very rich, and of agreeable flavour. It is slightly acid, and is so very resembles rather what is sold as Lemon Syrup, (though by no means so acid) than the common Syrup from the Sugar Cane.

Mr. Webster informs us that the juice was expressed by a very simple mill of his own construction, and was imperfectly done. We do not doubt that the cane will come into common use for a cheap supply of syrup for the family; and we have as little doubt that it will prove and become a very valuable article of stock food, especially for the early feeding of Hogs.

## NOTES OF TRAVEL IN THE "OLD DOMINION."

*Fair of the U. S. Agricultural Society—Banquet at the Ballard House—Visit to the country seat of Peyton Johnston, Esq. His fine swine of various breeds—Hollywood Cemetery—Richmond—Nursery of Joseph Sinton & Son—The Mechanics' Institute—Fair of the Virginia State Agricultural Society—Petersburg—Fair of the Seaboard Agricultural Society of Virginia and North Carolina—Norfolk—Fête at Johnson's Assembly Rooms—Visit to the Farms of Edward H. Herbert, Esq., and of Dr. J. N. McAlpine, about 6 miles from Norfolk—Portsmouth.*

From Aquia Creek to Fredericksburg and thence to Richmond, the effects of the great drought of the past Summer and Fall, were quite apparent; and the country presented a very unpromising appearance to the eye of any one accustomed to highly improved agriculture. Some farms, however, between the two cities, showed evidences of thrift and careful cultivation, but they were "*rari nantes*." Richmond, when we arrived, was thronged with visitors to the U. S. Agricultural Fair, attracted, like ourselves, by the expectation of witnessing a great national exhibition of all the varied agricultural products of our wide spread Union. Dust enveloped us in clouds, almost stifling, whilst on Tuesday, the 28th of October last, we passed out Main street to the Fair Grounds, and we were fain to go and return each day thereafter, by a different route over Shockoe Hill, and, by so doing, were rewarded by varied views of the beautiful city of Richmond. We did not arrive in season to hear the very excellent address, with which Gen. Tilghman, the President of the Society, opened the Fair in due form, but proceeded as soon as we had entered the enclosure, to take a quiet survey of the scene. The grounds, in shape a parallelogram, with the main gateway and porter's lodge, a very nondescript fanciful structure, in one corner, are divided into two unequal portions, one containing about 11 acres, for the main purposes of the Fair, and the other, containing about 5 acres, was for the horse track, which formed an ellipse of a quarter of a mile in circumference. Of the smaller portion, three sides were occupied by sheds and stables for horses, and the fourth was formed by the rear of the sheds which divided it from the larger. Midway in this division, an opening, some thirty feet wide, was left to give free passage to the crowds continually passing to and fro between these two sections of the grounds. On either side of this opening, but within the horse-track section and against the rear of the sheds last mentioned, were raised several elevated tiers of seats for the ladies, to witness the trotting. All the sheds, stables, buildings and fences were carefully whitewashed.—

In the larger division of the grounds, a huge Marquee was most conspicuously placed in a central position, from which broad and gravelled walks diverged on every side, winding with handsome curves through the green sward; but the gravel had not been sifted, and was of coarse, yellow pebbles, not rolled, and painful to walk upon. In the intervals between the walks, the agricultural implements and machinery were displayed in rows upon the grass with excellent effect. Near the chief tent were placed circular tents of dimensions too small for what they ought to have contained, but too large for the small collections within them; one for vegetables, fruits, &c., another for flowers, and others for the products of the dairy, &c. There were also various wooden structures, some containing manufactured articles, and some protecting the more costly and delicate implements and machinery.—The President was provided with a building for his exclusive use; having what none of the other structures possessed, (with perhaps one exception), the luxury of a *floor*. All the sheds around the sides of the Fair grounds were admirably constructed, and unusually lofty and roomy—high enough to admit of provender, being placed above the stock, broad enough to give a dry and sheltered walk, under cover, behind the heels of the animals, and with the eaves turned so as to throw all rain-water outside of the enclosure. There was a very considerable collection of coops to contain poultry, but a great deficiency of the birds themselves; and the large number of vacant sheep and hog pens was not indicative of that interest in a National Fair that should be felt by citizens of this great Republic.—The trotting ring, as is the case in most Fair grounds, was too small, and the curves almost too abrupt for the safety of the drivers. If there *must* be trotting, it ought to be performed on a proper course, of, at least, three-fourths of a mile in circuit. The Flag of the United States waved, in ample folds, over the chief gate of entrance, with manifest propriety; but the flags of all the world, and of "the rest of mankind" fluttered in petty bunting and prodigal profusion over the rest of the grounds with somewhat doubtful fitness.

The exhibition of stock in no one class was remarkable for quantity, though some of the animals were of the first rank in quality. The thorough bred Horses were the theme of general admiration.—"Revenue," a magnificent bay stallion, the property of Hon. John Minor Botts, of Richmond, and the not so handsome, though imported, black stallion "Fly-by-Night," whose pedigree is esteemed "*de pur sang*," and whose owner is John L. White, Esq., were the especial favourites in this class. "Red Eye," the famous racer, and by many, considered the most superb animal at the Fair, was "ruled out" because his pedigree was not considered unimpeachable. The show of the descendants of the old Jus-

tin Morgan, of Ticonderoga and of Black Hawk was good, though not equal to that of many Fairs at the North, where this breed of horses most abounds. "Ticonderoga" exhibited by Mr. Felton, the former owner of the famous stallion of that name now dead; "Paul Clifford" by the same, "Kossuth" by H. J. Smith, "Morse Gray" by H. W. Blunt, of the District of Columbia, and "Kit Carson" by Norman Dayton, of New York, were the favourites among the stallions of this class; our own preferences were for "Ticonderoga," "Kossuth" and "Kit Carson." The show of heavy draft stallions was not at all remarkable. We made a careful examination of the Cleveland bay stallion "Emperor," the property of the Hon. Wm. C. Rives. This animal is of large size, of the dark mahogany bay peculiar to his breed, of good carriage, strong and powerful limbs, large bone, dark black mane and tail, fine eyes, perfectly kind and gentle, and for so large a horse remarkably quick and active. His speed in trotting was in fact but little inferior to any of his competitors in the ring. But we cannot call him a very handsome animal; certainly not out of harness. It is probable however, that a cross between the Cleveland Bay and the blooded stock of Virginia will make far handsomer coach-horses and horses for quick draft generally, than the Clevelands themselves, much as they are esteemed in England. This cross will give that size and weight in which the thorough bred is too often deficient, for the purposes of the road.

We cannot omit to mention the beautiful thorough bred mare "Nina," exhibited by Thos. W. Doswell; the elegant thorough-bred filly "Mary Washington," exhibited by A. M. Braxton; the beautiful trotting mare "Fanny," exhibited by F. Felton, recipient of three premiums; and the two noble heavy draft mares "Lilly" and "Snow Drop" exhibited by J. Howard McHenry, of Maryland.—The two last must have satisfied all who saw them that the Percheron is one of the best breeds in the world for the large wagon and the heavily laden dray and truck.

The show of *Durhams* was small indeed, for a National Fair, but the herd of S. C. Ludington, of Greenbrier Co., Va., was a splendid example of what careful breeding and the rich blue grass of Western Virginia will produce. His bulls "Djalma" and "Scipio," were very fine animals, as was also his cow "Mazurka 4th;" but his fat bullocks, and those of Messrs. Crouse and Irvine showed what immense animals can be reared from the Short horn stock. Of *Devons*, the exhibition was chiefly from Maryland, and from the herds of Messrs. J. H. McHenry, Oden Bowie, and H. J. Stranberg. A fine Bull however, "Romeo," was exhibited by G. B. Dillard. The cows "Dahlia," of J. H. McHenry,

"Sunshine," of Oden Bowie, and "Matilda," of H. J. Stranberg, and the bull "Richmond" belonging to the latter gentleman, were each severally much admired, and received premiums. The foundation of Capt. Stranberg's herd was laid in purchases made from the stock of Col. Capron, of Laurel, Prince George's county, Md., and from that of Edward Stabler, of Montgomery Co., in the same State. It seems to be the inevitable destiny of the Captain's cow "Matilda," to carry off some of the highest, and generally the first premiums wherever she is exhibited.

Of *Ayrshires*, the show was very small, the bulls "Monmouth" exhibited by John Merryman, Esq., of Md., and "Mar" by J. B. Crenshaw, of Va., and the cow "Christmas" by Peter D. Glenn, being the best.

Of *Alderneys*, the exhibitors were entirely from Maryland, and, of course, the beautiful herds of these elegantly shaped, deer-like, milch cattle, owned by Messrs. W. C. Wilson and J. H. McHenry carried off the premiums, as usual.

Of *Herefords*, though the exhibition was small, yet the herd exhibited by Thomas Aston, of Elyria, Ohio, must have imparted a knowledge of the many excellent points of this breed, (comparatively so little known in the United States) to many who never before had the pleasure of seeing it. They were the finest Herefords we had ever seen, and we hope Mr. Aston will be induced to exhibit them at the next Maryland State Fair. Though his stock was not so fine nor so numerous as Mr. Aston's, yet our friend John Merryman, of Md., received premiums in this class for his bull "Catalpa," and his cow "Lilac."

The chief exhibitors of SHEEP were—Of *Catskills*, Col. J. W. Ware, of Va., H. Carroll, of Md., and Thos. Aston, of Ohio; of *South Downs*, J. C. Jones, of Steelville, Chester Co. Pa., so successful as an exhibitor at the late Maryland State Fair, and Col. B. France, of Talbot Co. Md.; of *Silesian Merinos*, and *Spanish Merinos*, S. S. Bradford, Esq., of Culpeper Co. Va. The flocks of the last named gentlemen were in charge of a shepherd obtained expressly from Germany, and thoroughly trained in the management of sheep. The wool of these sheep was of the finest quality, and these Merinos will prove a valuable acquisition to the State of Virginia, if not allowed to deteriorate by bad breeding. We obtained, although the fleeces of the Merinos had not obtained their full "pile" since shearing, specimens of the wool of all the breeds of sheep exhibited at this Fair.

The display of *Swine* was very meagre. The Messrs. Wood, of Penningtonville, Chester Co. Pa. being the chief exhibitors. In this class almost all the premiums were awarded to Pennsylvanians. The hogs exhibited were almost all of the Chester breed.

The exhibition of Poultry was so small as to be

hardly worth mentioning. It might pass muster at a small county Fair, but was altogether unworthy of the Exhibition of a society claiming to be National, and having the whole Union for its field of operations.

The collection of the products of the field, the garden, the orchard and the dairy, was far below mediocrity; and though there were individual exceptions, yet the mass was decidedly as we have stated. A specimen of winter wheat was exhibited by C. H. Doughton, said to ripen fifteen days earlier than any other variety; and fine wheat grown upon his farm in Talbot, Md., was exhibited by the President.—There were two or three specimens of Virginia tobacco, a sheaf or two of rice from South Carolina, and some corn shelled, and on the cob, and these, besides the wheat we have mentioned, held almost exclusive possession of an entire tent. The shelled white corn exhibited by Dr. J. G. Lumpkin, of Richmond, Virginia, was remarkable for its very pure white, and well shaped grains, and its weight, and received the first premium. J. T. Toombs, of Micham River Depot, Va., exhibited 48 varieties of apples, and we are indebted to him for several specimens of his best. H. B. Jones, Esq., of Brownsburg, Rockbridge county, Virginia, exhibited 86 varieties of apples, a list of which we are enabled, by his kindness, to give in the present number of the Farmer. We were much pleased with fine vegetables exhibited by Julien Prevost, of Henrico Co., Va., particularly with the cauliflower. The basket of English Fluke Potatoes exhibited by S. Davidson, of Greece, Monroe county, N. Y., elicited many inquiries from the public, and he sold them all, by the single tuber, for a very high price. This variety in size and general appearance, struck us as being excellent and valuable, though we have never had the pleasure of testing it when cooked.

Messrs. Joseph Sinton & Sons, whose old established nursery is about three miles from Richmond, had fine fruit trees on exhibition, as had also Mr. Franklin Davis, of the Staunton (Va.) Nurseries, and others. The last named gentleman told us that he cultivated at his nurseries at Staunton the *Weeping Peach*—a variety obtained by him from Wm. Reid, of Elizabethtown, N. J., with whom he said it had originated. It ripens its fruit at Staunton about the first of October. The largest Gooseberries we have ever seen were exhibited in a glass jar and preserved in spirits, by the grower, Mr. John Hampson, of Yonkers, West Chester Co., N. Y. He has promised to contribute to our pages his mode of culture, and means of preventing the mildew.—James Guest, of the Hollywood Nurseries of Richmond, exhibited some well grown and healthy exotics, but nothing very uncommon. He also exhibited a beautiful Floral Design. The "Floral Designs" by John Marion, Florist, of Richmond, were extremely

beautiful and exhibited remarkable ingenuity, excellent taste and an eye for colour uncommonly well educated. We shall not soon forget his artistically arranged basket of cut flowers, with every petal placed to produce the richest and most gorgeous effect, and yet every contrast carefully studied, and produced with consummate skill. The statue of the female figure representing Justice, of white plaster, holding her scales, was decorated with the most exquisite taste. The scales were of fine worked, flat chip baskets, filled and concealed by flowers. The chords were strung with red berries, and the balance-beam was covered with white moss. Around the head was a wreath of arbor-vitæ and rose buds, and laurel. Around the waist was a girdle of arbor-vitæ and red amaranths—the right side was draped with arbor-vitæ to the feet, and the base of the statue was covered with grey moss and lichens, with the word "Justice," worked in with letters of red globe amaranths. The display of *Butter* was very small, and not well prepared for exhibition. The *Bread* looked very good, though we had not an opportunity of tasting it. We were surprised to learn from a gentleman, whose guest we were, that though so much flour is made at Richmond, yet he and others, generally, obtained their best flour, for family use, from Baltimore.

There were but few Hams exhibited. We obtained the recipe by which the ham which took the first premium was cured, from the fair exhibitor herself, and have given it to our subscribers in the present number of the Farmer.

Of the Ladies work we shall not venture to speak—of the preserves and pickles and cake, because we did not taste them, and of the needle work, knitting and netting, because we are but indifferent judges of such matters.

The collection of Agricultural Implements and Machines was large and interesting, though not so large as we had anticipated. Wood's Manny's Reaper and Mower—Miller & Aultman's Buckeye Mower—R. L. Allen's Reaper, and a Mower and Reaper by T. D. Burrall, of N. Y., (which last received the first premium as a combined Machine,) and a Reaper by Jesse Whitehead, were the chief machines exhibited under the class of Reapers and Mowers. The first premium as a Mower was awarded to Wood's Manny. It seems to us rather a piece of guess work to undertake to award premiums to Reapers or Mowers at a time of the year when there is no opportunity to ascertain the excellencies or defects of such machines by the test of actual experience in the wheat field, or in clover, or timothy. That premiums have been awarded to such machines under such circumstances has little weight in recommending them to the practical farmer, and, we should think, could hardly afford much satisfaction to the inventors themselves.

*Horse-powers* were exhibited by E. Potts & Co., of Pa., and by Emery & Bro's. of Albany, N. Y., the latter also exhibiting a Threshing machine which received a first premium. *Ploughs* were exhibited in considerable variety. A first premium was awarded to E. Whitman & Co., of Baltimore, for the best plough for general use, and a similar premium to the same for the best sub-soil plough.—These gentlemen exhibited a very extensive collection of agricultural implements. We were much struck with the excellence of the ploughs exhibited by Mr. George Watt, of Richmond, who seems to have made that implement his especial study. The device of the cuff brace he has applied with great success and considers it, very justly, a most valuable addition. The draining plough exhibited by Mr. A. P. Routt, of Somerset, Orange Co. Va., we have never seen in operation, but it appeared to us a novel and ingenious implement well adapted for the purposes of surface drainage. It consists of a double mould board plough followed by a cast iron roller, shaped like two cones joined at their bases; so that the earth, thrown out by the plough, shall be pressed firmly down by the roller, and the sides of the drain left smooth, even, and of a proper angle.—The Corn Cultivator, and the Horse-Hoe, both exhibited by Sayre & Remington, of N. Y., received 1st premiums. The agent having charge of these implements kept all comers fully and incessantly informed of their merits. To the Grain drill of Messrs. Bickford & Huffman, was awarded a second premium, whilst the first was granted to that of Messrs. Willoughby & Black, of Pennsylvania. The latter machine has yet not been generally tested in Maryland, and we fear the small India rubber cylinders will not prove all that is anticipated. The Grain Fan exhibited by J. T. Grant & Co., of N. Y., received the first premium, and that shown by J. Montgomery & Co., of Baltimore, the second.—A first premium was awarded to the Hay and Straw Cutter of G. B. Griffin, of Pa., and the second to that of R. Sinclair & Co., of Baltimore. Two *Corn Harvesters* were exhibited; one by R. C. Mauck, and the other by Reamer and Miller. Both machines bore evidences of great ingenuity, but both will require very considerable improvements before they can supersede the present modes of getting off the corn crop. The locomotive Farm steam-engine exhibited by Philip-Rahm, of Richmond, was a great point of attraction, and secured a gold medal for the exhibitor. We have not space more particularly to describe all that was exhibited in the Mechanical Department, but to this, the contributions were more numerous and more generally useful than to any other of the whole Fair.

On Thursday we listened, we cannot say with pleasure, for we were excessively tired by the exertion, to a very long and inappropriate address at

the Grounds, by the Hon. Caleb Cushing, of Massachusetts. It was, as an oratorical effort, judging by the effect upon the audience, by no means successful; and appeared more suitable to a Legislative Assembly, or a Lecture room, or the pages of a Magazine, than the occasion selected for this politico-economical disquisition of the learned gentleman. We felt quite a relief, therefore, in passing from the very fit place for this harangue—the Horse track—to the great Marquee where Mr. Raye, the Horse Tamer, (brother of the famous Marrey,) gave a most satisfactory exhibition of his skill.

On Friday, the clouds that lowered the day before, poured down rain so copiously that the choking dust was turned to mire, and the receipts at the gates showed a largely diminished number of visitors. But, notwithstanding the weather, the very eloquent, appropriate, terse and classic Valedictory Address was delivered in the great Marquee, by the Hon. W. C. Rives, of Va. to a very large and delighted audience. It was a production worthy of the highly educated farmer, the scholar, the statesman, and the gentleman. We hope, on a subsequent occasion, to give it a more particular notice.—Denton Offutt, the original Horse Tamer, gave, this day, a most successful exhibition of his powers.

The proceedings of the last day terminated in a grand Agricultural Banquet, given at the Ballard House, by the Virginia Central Ag. Society, to the President and Delegates of the U. S. Society. Genl. Tilghman, the President of the latter society, presided at one end of the Hall, with Lord Napier, the British Minister, on his left; and James Lyons, Ex-President of the Virginia Central, at the other end. Toast and reply followed each other till a late hour. Mr. Cushing spoke, and this time more appropriately, perhaps, than at the Fair, but still with a little dash of politics. Gen. Tilghman spoke twice.—Mr. Lyons made a most happy address, and after a most gallant and chivalrous allusion to her Majesty the Queen of England, and in her praise as a lady and a Queen, (which was received with deafening applause,) proposed the health of Lord Napier.—The distinguished diplomatist replied in a speech that, for exquisite good taste, delicate touches of quiet humor, felicity of expression and telling points, we have never heard equalled upon any festive occasion. It was a model of its kind, and we regret that our limited space precludes its insertion. We can only add, in the words of Mr. Lyons, that "if the Queen is not proud of her representative, she ought to be." The name of the late President of the U. S. Ag. Society, was not forgotten on "this festive night," and we heard a Delegate from Md. in reply to the toast in honor of that good old State, give, "The name of one—whether in the field of Ceres or the orchard of Pomona, alike pre-eminent—the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, Ex-President of the United

**State Agricultural Society.** It was drunk with all the honours, and the reply was made by the Secretary of the Society.

In addition to the addresses we have already mentioned as having been delivered at the Fair grounds, there was also one by W. H. McFarland, Esq., which it was not our fortune to hear. In fact "addresses" were the order of the day.

In concluding our account of the Fair at Richmond, and in summing up our views in relation to it, we cannot make our remarks upon the basis of comparison with any previous exhibition of the U. States Society; for at none such have we been present, but we shall consider it, as it professes to have been, a National Exhibition, intended to show the products from each of the thirty-two States, and of the Territories of this great Confederacy, together with stock, implements, &c. from every section of the same wide surface. Judging the Fair by this standard, we are compelled to say, notwithstanding some excellent displays of stock and other objects of agricultural interest, the intentions of the Society were most lamentably defective in execution. Financially the exchequer of the Society was filled to overflowing, but such is not the only, nor the true criterion to judge of the success of the recent Fair.—We think the experiment, even financially, would be found a failure if tried a second time at Richmond under the guise of a National Fair.

It is much to be regretted that the discord and rivalry between the Virginia State Society and the Virginia Central should have had, together with the unlucky determination to charge such heavy fees for entry of everything, and to double the usual charge for admission at the gates, the unfortunate consequences of preventing many of the farmers of Virginia, who would have otherwise assisted, from lending any countenance to the Fair, either by their presence or by contributions of stock or farm products. Our thanks are returned to the President of the United States Society, for his politeness and attention. No one could have performed the duties of President with greater urgency and success, and most patiently and triumphantly did he overcome the many embarrassments and difficulties of his arduous task; working all day, and with very little rest at night. Every evening there were interesting agricultural discussions and reunions in one of the churches in Richmond, over which it was the pleasing duty of Genl. Tilghman to preside, and in which he always bore his part.

**MR. PAXTON JOHNSTON'S SWINE.**—During the continuance of the Fair we found opportunity to visit some places in the environs of Richmond, and among others, in company with the most hospitable and energetic proprietor, the neat little country seat of Peyton Johnston, Esq., about three miles from the city. Here, besides the place itself and the very complete arrangements for supplying the dwelling and garden, and all the out-buildings, with water, by means of hydrants, fountains, and other contrivances, through pipes leading from two water-rams, placed near a small rivulet, we found abundant to interest us in Mr. Johnston's very complete arrangements for feeding, keeping, and breeding swine. This is a kind of live stock, in the rearing of which, Mr. Johnston has engaged with his usual energy, and with such enthusiasm as to make it a specialty; and, in consequence, animals from his pens are always successful competitors at agricultural fairs, and having be-

come widely celebrated for purity in their several breeds, are in great demand.

The piggeries we found complete in every respect—the larger portion being built around the sides of a hollow square. Each boar and breeding sow had their own separate quarters, consisting of a wooden pen raised some eighteen inches from the ground; the front half being open to the weather, and the rear, forming a covered apartment closed in on all sides, except the front, where a low door, wide enough for a man to enter, gave access to its luxuries. These pens, for fear of any accidents or mistakes, are kept under lock and key, so that no one but the proprietor or his most invaluable swineherd, the jovial "Jimmy," could remove any of the occupants. The floors of these pens are made with a slope of two inches to the foot, and are of slats of thick plank; for Mr. Johnston never pens his hogs immediately upon the ground. The roofs are made of plank on which is laid thick sheathing paper, (costing from three to four cents a sheet), which is held in position by thin strips of wood, nailed on it at intervals of about two feet. Gas-tar, made thick with common resin, is then poured on, boiling hot, and a coat of sand and gravel instantly spread over the whole. This is found to make a very cheap, durable, and waterproof covering. Every possible care seemed to be taken to keep the animals in perfect health, and that the whole establishment should be as clean and neat as possible. To this end, a large, square wooden tank, about ten feet long and five feet wide, was sunk in the centre of the hog yard. This is filled with water, into which is thrown ten pounds of roll sulphur, sufficient to last two months, and constitutes the bath, which, at proper intervals, each hog is permitted to enjoy, in turn. The sulphur has the effect of removing vermin, and preventing cutaneous disease. To counteract disagreeable odours, Mr. Johnston usually sprinkles a handful of copperas, as a disinfectant, on such spots as require it. It costs but a trifle, and is eaten by the hogs without injury when thrown into their feeding troughs.

Near the centre of the hog-yard is a large boiling and steaming apparatus, where the food for the hogs is mixed and prepared. The proportions are two bushels of mill sweepings in 60 gallons of water, so as to make a thick paste. Garbage obtained in abundance from the hotels in Richmond, is added. During the winter, Mr. Johnston also feeds his hogs on turnips, cut up, and boiled with a small quantity of mill sweepings. A hydrant in the hog yard is supplied by the water rams we have mentioned, and saves all trouble in filling the bath and the boiler.

Mr. Johnston has between 70 and 80 hogs, and all of the first quality, of their several breeds; in fact he will have none but the best, being determined to rear no inferior animals, so that those from his establishment may always be fully up to the standard of the high reputation they have already acquired. The breeds at present preferred by Mr. Johnston, and of which we saw specimens of both sexes of the highest excellence, and of every age, are the *Chester, Improved Hampshire, Virginia Grasser and White Berkshire*. To these are about to be added another breed but little known to the public, but much esteemed by a distinguished farmer and planter, near Herndon, Burke Co., Geo. We were particularly struck with the excellent points of the improved Hampshire Boar "Frank," and considered

this the finest specimen of a Boar in the class of swine, to which that breed belongs, that we have ever seen; we gave him the preference over all in Mr. Johnston's pens, of every breed, age and sex. Mr. Johnston finds the Hampshires exceedingly docile, gentle, easy to fatten, and of rapid growth.—An account of Mr. Johnston's imported Hampshires may be found in the American Farmer, for August 1856. "Frank" was sired by the imported Hampshire "Duke," the latter, however, but little the inferior of the son. The Hampshire sow "Princess," and the two animals with the Shakspearian names, "Anne Page," and, the huge Chester Boar "Sir John Falstaff," were all very superior, and have all taken premiums, we believe, at several agricultural fairs. For family use, and where only a small number are required for home consumption, Mr. Johnston recommends the Virginia Grazer.—Our space does not permit us a more extended notice of Mr. Johnston's very interesting establishment, but we hope, on some future occasion, to give, from his own pen, a more detailed account of his swine, and of his mode of treating them.

[CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT.]

#### SALES OF DURHAM CATTLE.

The following sales were made at auction at Mayslick, Kentucky:

*Cows.*—Marcia—Sold to J. V. Burgess & Caldwell, for \$180. Avarilda 3d—to do do for \$100. Princess—to Joel Laytham for \$105. Sweet Looks—to do do for \$99. Orphan—to R. E. Pogue, for \$105.

*Heifers.*—Junior—Sold to Waller Small, for \$50. Kate Townley—do do for \$103. Sunshine—to G. A. Dye, for \$96.

*Bull Calves.*—Cytherus—Sold to W. Small, for \$65. Jerome—to J. N. Owens, for \$77.—*Maysville Eagle.*

S. C. Ludington, the successful cattle exhibitor at the recent United States Fair in Richmond, has sold several of his stock. He writes as follows to the Greenbrier (Va.) Era:

I have sold "Scipio" to Mr. Hansbarger, of Rockingham county, at \$500, and "Lady Roan" to Dr. Bowen, of Fredericksburg, at \$500, and one from Kentucky fat cattle to Mr. Linsey, of Richmond, for \$500, and one fat Kentucky cow for \$265.80. My white steer I sold to Mr. Price for \$220, and one yoke oxen at \$200. One ox, three years old, at 8 cents gross, amounted to \$300, and a fat heifer at \$200. "Triumph," bull calf, sold for \$200.

[We have been informed by Capt. H. J. Stranberg of Easton, Talbot Co., Md., that he has sold twelve of the fine herd of Devons, exhibited by him at the late Fairs at Baltimore, Richmond, Petersburg and Norfolk, and with which he carried off so many premiums.—Eds.]

Geo. W. Rosenbarger, of Shenandoah county, Va., one of the successful exhibitors at the National Fair, has sold two calves—"Kentucky Boy" and "Miss Whitaker," for \$275, and "Lilly" and "Louis Phillippe," for \$162.

Mr. T. L. Wilson, 134 High street, Baltimore, can supply elegantly printed 12 mo. pamphlets descriptive of varied scenery in every part of the world beautifully illustrated by engravings from photographic originals.

#### MEETING OF U. S. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

**SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING.**—The United States Agricultural Society will hold its Seventh Annual Meeting in the Lecture Room of the Smithsonian Institution, at Washington city, on Wednesday, the twelfth day of January, 1859, when the election of officers will be held, and the business required by the constitution of the Society will be transacted.

Officers and Members of the Society are respectfully notified to attend, and a cordial invitation is extended to State and other Agricultural Associations to send Delegates, that there may be a general representation of Agriculturists "in Congress assembled," to protect and sustain their interests acting as a national organization on such matters pertaining to Agriculture as may be deemed appropriate. Gentlemen from other lands who may be interested in the acquisition and diffusion of Agricultural knowledge, are also invited to attend, and to participate in the proceedings.

The Medals and Diplomas awarded at the Sixth Annual Exhibition at Richmond, will be delivered to successful competitors, or their agents. The published volume of Transactions for 1858, will be delivered to Members of the Society, and to gentlemen connected with the Agricultural Press.

Important Agricultural topics will be publicly discussed, after introductory remarks by eminent scientific and practical agriculturists. Gentlemen having topics pertinent to the advancement of Agriculture, which they may wish to introduce or to have discussed, will please refer them to the Executive committee, through the Secretary, that a place may be assigned them on the daily programme.

Propositions from cities at which the next Annual Exhibition of the Society is desired, will be received and considered.

The Business Office of the Society is in Todd's Marble Building, one door west of Brown's Hotel, Pennsylvania avenue, where all interested in the cause of Agricultural improvement are invited to call when in Washington city. A large number of Agricultural newspapers, periodicals, and reports, (liberally contributed,) are placed on file for public inspection, and the Library is also free to all who may desire to examine it. Models or Drawings of Agricultural implements, and other objects of interest, are placed on exhibition without charge.

Gentlemen who may wish to become Life Members of the Society, can do so by paying or remitting ten dollars to the Treasurer, Hon. B. B. French, Washington city. This will entitle them, without any further payments, to the full privileges of membership—among these are: free admission to all exhibitions of the Society, the annual volumes of published Transactions, the Monthly Bulletin, and the large and elegant Diploma. The fee for Annual Membership is two dollars, which ensures the receipt of the Transactions and the Monthly Bulletin for one year.—U. S. A. S. Monthly Bulletin.

**ERRATA.**—In the October No., page 123, we suggest to those who preserve their Nos, to make the following corrections: in the seventh line from the bottom where Anglo-Saxon occurs, write Anglo-Italian. In the fifth line from the bottom for "London" write "Tudor;" and on page 29, in the 22d line from the top, for "long window" write "bay-window."



#### FINE WOOLED SHEEP IN VIRGINIA.

We wanted room in our last to notice as we wished the very superior fine woolled sheep, exhibited on our Show grounds by S. S. Bradford, Esq., of Culpepper Co., Va. We take much pleasure in calling the attention of our Southern readers to them—not only on account of the intrinsic value of these sheep, but of the great importance we attach to the extensive introduction of the Fine Woolled Sheep Husbandry into our Southern Atlantic States.

The cut does not represent precisely the Silesian Sheep of Mr. Bradford, but the Spanish Merinos which have been heretofore the best known and favorite Fine Woolled Sheep of this country. While the Saxon Merino excelled the Spanish in fineness of Staple, the fleece is much lighter, and they are deficient in vigor and hardness of constitution. It is claimed for the Silesian, that they have the rugged hardy constitution and weight of fleece of the Spanish Merino, and rival the Saxon in the softness, elasticity, evenness and beauty of staple; and that in symmetry of form they excel them both. No one who knows the extraordinary care, skill and intelligence which has been given for many years to the improvement of the Merino by the flock masters of Prussian Silesia, will be disposed to dispute this claim.

Mr. Bradford's sheep have been obtained through the agency of Messrs. Campbell of West-

minister, Vermont, and Chamberlain of Red Hook, New York. These gentlemen are associated in the ownership of a large flock of Fine Woolled Sheep, and have imported largely. After a careful examination of the best flocks on the continent they have for several years made their selection from the celebrated flock of Mr. Fisher, of Silesia. It is gratifying to know that these valuable animals have rather improved than fallen off since their importation, and exhibit in our climate all the excellence for which they are famous at home.

Mr. Bradford we learn is engaging extensively in the growing of Fine Wool; we are glad to be able to give from the personal knowledge of the Editor of the Washington "Star," some account of his operations, and in connection with it the Editor's own intelligent views of the subject of Sheep Husbandry. We design recurring to the subject hereafter.

Writing from Richmond during the United States Agricultural Society's Exhibition the Editor says:

Mr. S. S. Bradford, of Culpeper county, Va., whose show of sheep at Baltimore was so striking—taking every premium for fine wool animals awarded, but one—has, in this exhibition, a lot of recently imported Silesian Merinos, which bear off the palm in the judgment of the many rearers of sheep by whom they seem to be constantly surrounded. Gradually, for some years past, the fine wool (Merino) have been coming into favor in that finest wool and mutton-growing country of

the United States, the Piedmont region of Virginia. Mr. Bradford's magnificent display of such animals attracts deserved attention. Whether of Silesian, French or Spanish extraction, the Merino sheep proves to be much more profitable to the Virginia farmer than sheep of any other blood. In the first place the fleece of the Merino though much lighter than that of the coarse or long-wooled sheep, sells for an aggregate of perhaps 100 per cent. more than the fleece of either his rivals—the Southdown, Bakewell, or Cotswold. The casualties from which the latter so often suffer carry off three of them at least, to every Merino sheep lost from the same causes—each kind being subject to similar or equal treatment. The muttons of the coarse-wool varieties sell for perhaps an average of fifty per centum more than the Merino muttons, because they are much larger and cut up more profitably to the butcher. Yet no one residing where fine muttons are grown will buy the coarse-wooled when the Merino muttons sufficiently fat for table use can be obtained; because the flavor of the latter, carefully fattened, is as much superior to that of the former, as that of a canvass-back is to the flavor of the mallard. However superior in flavor the mutton of the coarse woolled sheep may be in England, in this country, owing to some peculiarity of the feed, and to the difference in climate, with equal treatment, the fine-wool mutton is much preferable.—Two or three causes operate to make it comparatively scarce.

In the first place, the lambs are too small for profitable sale as meat, and far too valuable for their fleeces, to admit of their economical sale to the butcher. Next, the ewes, up to eight or nine years old, are far more profitable to keep, than to butcher. The finest and most valuable wool is taken from them ere three years old; after which they gradually shear less and less, annually; at eight or nine they lose their teeth, and not being able to thrive on short pasture their value as wool producers ceases. The wethers commence to deteriorate in the yield of wool after three years old, and are sent to market only after that age as the owner may find sale for them, in condition. Next, again, the butchers will not buy them if they can obtain good coarse wool mutton, because they do not cut up so profitably; for not one city mutton eater in five hundred is aware of the remarkable difference in the flavor of the two descriptions.—Were that generally comprehended, the Fine Wool Mutton would—pound for pound—command better prices, far better, at retail, than the mutton of the English breeds. But more of sheep in my next.

In a subsequent letter he again says:

In my last I urged the greater profit of raising fine wool sheep, as demonstrated by the history of sheep-culture (as improperly termed around the cattle shows) in Virginia. The fine wool sheep are original with or indigenous to, (as it were,) countries whose climate more nearly resembles our own, than that of the country of the long wool sheep. Thus, in the portions of Spain, France and Germany, from whence we get the fine wool strains, the sun shines fiercely in summer, and the cold of the winter is as intense, almost, as here. In England, on the contrary, such sudden changes of temperature and such extremes of it as we experience are unknown. Certain it is that those changes in Virginia destroy, in great

measure, the value of long wool sheep to the farmer. One difficulty is in keeping sufficient of them in a herd to justify the expense of retaining a shepherd by them at all times. Thus, a flock of 250 long wool sheep kept with the greatest possible care, is as numerous as they can be kept together, without experiencing, in turn, all the diseases which afflict sheep in this latitude and longitude. On the other hand, one may safely keep a thousand fine wool sheep in a single flock, experiencing not a tithe of the annual loss from disease incident to the smaller flock of the other.—If more than two hundred and fifty long wools be penned or housed together, the result is, invariably, disease and death, to defeat any possibility of profit from the flock. So say those in the Piedmont region most successful with sheep.

Mr. S. S. Bradford, whose Silesians I mentioned in my last, rarely has less than a thousand fine wools in a flock. His German shepherd seldom leaves them out of his sight for more than an hour. In good weather he hurdles them nightly on the poorer spots of the field in which they graze, and gun in hand, to punish intruding dogs, he sleeps in a box or house on wheels, which is rolled wherever his charge is penned for the night. In rainy weather they are invariably housed day and night; as during intensely cold weather. He feeds them daily about a bushel of oats to 100 head. In the grazing season they require no other such feed; when housed in the day time they get corn fodder to pick, in addition to their oats. The shepherd has them so completely under his control, as that with the assistance of a single sheep dog he manages them as easily as though not more than half a dozen in number.—His well known whistle and a wave of the hand will turn the flock in any direction, even from the near vicinity to an unfenced patch of wheat or better grass than that on which it is desired to graze them. If a single sheep is obstinate or stupid, the dog is despatched to teach him his place. He performs his task with wonderful efficacy indeed, relieving his master from the care of watching for hours. He comprehends what is forbidden ground for sheep, and will not permit one or more to stray from the rest; always promptly driving those so inclined back to their proper position. When with the flock in the day time, the shepherd, though keeping them in sight, usually relies almost entirely on the watchfulness and intelligence of his canine companion, and employs himself in cutting or grubbing briars, making baskets, or something of the sort.

The well-managed farm of Mr. Bradford is near my own residence, which has enabled me to get an insight into the points of his successful management of his fine flock, which pays him, I fancy, an average of twenty per centum profit, annually; that is, above and beyond all possible outlays or contingencies of loss. Nevertheless, the profit on his flock is not so large per sheep, as that of smaller flocks in the same neighborhood; as in smaller flocks sheep thrive much better with far less care. Another neighbor, with a flock of one hundred and twenty-five Fine Wools, though never housing them, even in sleety weather, and keeping no shepherd, gets heavier fleeces from them, and loses proportionably fewer than Mr. Bradford by disease and casualties. The original cost of this small flock was \$2.50 per ewe and \$20 per buck.

For some years past—until Congress, to see

commodate the manufacturers of wool, admitted it duty free—its owner's average wool sales were at the rate of \$9.03 per sheep. That, with the sale of muttons to his neighbors, made the profits of his little flock enormous; for he has never yet fed them with anything whatever besides corn fodder, even in seasons when grazing is impossible. They are grazed, it will be remembered, on land which will not keep cattle or horses. Where penned nightly on the galls and always moved about, they enrich such spots amazingly; the effect of keeping one thousand penned upon a spot even a single night, is quite as beneficial to the soil there, as an application of two hundred pounds of Peruvian guano to the acre.

[From Flint's "Milk Cows and Dairy Farming."]

#### LETTER TO A DAIRY-WOMAN.

In the earlier chapters of this work I have spoken to farmers and dairymen of the selection, care, and management, of dairy stock. The seventh, eighth, and ninth chapters relate more especially to your department, and on your application and skill will depend chiefly the successful result of the dairy establishment. Of what avail are costly barns, well-selected cows, and judicious feeding, in the butter and cheese dairy, if the products are to be depreciated in value by the imperfect modes of preparing them for the market, where the final judgment is passed upon them, and where it is expected the price will be according to their value?

You have, doubtless, had a much greater practical knowledge and experience of the details of dairy management than I have. For this practice and experience I have the utmost respect; but I have not spoken without a knowledge of the subject. I have made many a cheese, and many a pound of butter, while my observations have extended over all the most important dairy districts of the country, and have not been limited to the practices of any one section, which, however good in themselves, may not be the best. I trust, therefore, you will excuse me for calling your attention to the more important points to which I have alluded; and, if my conclusions happen to differ from your own, in any respect, that you will not discard them as worthless, without first bringing them to the test of careful experiment, when I trust they will be found correct.

I have not written to establish any favorite theory, but simply to inculcate truth, and to aid in developing a most important branch of American industry, which, either directly or indirectly, involves the investment of a vast amount of capital, the aggregate profits of which depend so largely on your judgment and skill.

I need not remind you that any addition, however small, to the market value of each pound of butter or cheese, will largely increase the annual income of your establishment. Nor need I remind you that these articles are generally the last of either the luxuries or the necessities of life in which city customers are willing to economize. They must and will have a good article, and are ready to pay for it in proportion to its goodness; or, if they desire to economize in butter, it will be in the quantity rather than the quality.

Poor butter is a drug in the market. Nobody wants it, and the dealer often finds it difficult to get it off his hands, when a delicate and finely-

flavored article attracts attention and secures a ready sale. Some say that poor butter will do for cooking. But a good steak or mutton-chop is too expensive to allow any one to spoil it by the use of a poor quality of butter; and good pastry-cooks will tell you that cakes and pies cannot be made without good sweet butter, and plenty of it.

These dishes relish too well, when properly cooked with nice butter, for any one to tolerate the use of poor butter in them.

On page 220 and elsewhere, I have dwelt on the necessity of extreme cleanliness in all the operations of the dairy; and this is the basis and fundamental principle of your business. I would not suppose, for a moment, that you are lacking in this respect. The enormous quantities of disgusting, streaky, and tallow-like butter, that are daily thrust upon the seaboard markets must be due to the carelessness and negligence of heedless men, to exposure to sun and rain, to bad packing, and to delays in transportation. Many of these evils you may not be able to remove, since you cannot follow the article to market, and see that it arrives safely and untainted.—But you can take greater pains, perhaps, in some of the preliminary processes of making, and produce an article that will not be so liable to injure from keeping and transportation; and then, if fault is to be found, it does not rest with you. I will not suggest the possibility that your ideas of cleanliness and neatness may be at fault; and that what may seem an excess of nicety and scrubbing to you may appear to be almost slovenliness to some others, whose butter receives the highest price in the market, and always finds the readiest sale. Permit me, however, to refer you to pages 300, 324, and 325, where a detailed account is given of the washings in water and washings in alkali; of the scrubblings, and the scourings, and the scaldings, and the rinsings, which the neat and tidy Dutch dairy-woman give all the utensils of the dairy, from the pails to the firkins and the casks, and also to their extreme carefulness that no infectious odor rises from the surroundings.—I think you will see that it is a physical impossibility that any taint can affect the atmosphere or the utensils of such a dairy, and that many of the details of their practice may be worthy of imitation in our American dairies.

And here allow me to suggest that, though we may not approve of the general management in any particular section, or any particular dairy, it is rare that there is not something in the practice of that section that is really valuable and worthy of imitation.

On pages 231 and 234 I have called your attention to the use of the sponge and clean cloth for absorbing and removing the butter-milk in the most thorough manner; this I regard as of great importance.

I have stated on page 234 that, under ordinarily favorable circumstances, from twelve to eighteen hours will be sufficient to raise the cream; and that I do not believe it should stand over twenty-four hours under any circumstances. This, I am aware, is very different from the general practice over the country. But, if you will make the experiment in the most careful manner, setting the pans in a good, airy place, and not upon the cellar bottom, I think that you will soon agree with me that all you get, after twelve or eighteen hours, under the best circumstances, or at most

after twenty-four hours, will detract from the quality and injure the fine and delicate aroma and agreeable taste of the butter to a greater extent than you are aware of. The cream which rises from milk set on the cellar bottom acquires an acrid taste, and can neither produce butter of so fine a quality or so agreeable to the palate as that which rises from milk set on shelves from six to eight feet high, around which there is a full and free circulation of pure air. The latter is sweeter, and appears in much larger quantities in the same time than the former.

If, therefore, you devote your attention to the making of butter to sell fresh in the market, and desire to obtain a reputation which shall aid and secure the quickest sale and the highest price, you will use cream that rises first, and that does not stand too long on the milk. You will churn it properly and patiently, and not with too great haste. You will work it so thoroughly and completely with the butter-worker, and the sponge and cloth, as to remove every particle of butter-milk, never allowing your own or any other hands to touch it. You will keep it at a proper temperature when making, and after it is made, by the judicious use of ice, and avoid exposing it to the bad odors of a musty cellar. You will discard the use of artificial coloring or flavoring matter, and take the utmost care in every process of making. You will stamp your butter tastefully with some mould which can be recognized in the market as yours; as, for instance, your initials, or some form or figure which will most please the eye and the taste of the customer. You will send it in boxes so perfectly prepared and cleansed as to impart no taste of wood to the butter. If all these things receive due attention, my word for it, the initials or form which you adopt will be inquired after, and you will always find a ready and a willing purchaser at the highest market price.

But, if you are differently situated, and it becomes necessary to pack and sell as firkin-butter, let me suggest the necessity of an equal degree of nicety and care in preparation, and that you insist, as one of your rights, that the article be packed in the best of oak-wood firkins, thoroughly prepared after the manner of the Dutch, as stated on page 325. A greater attention to these points would make the butter thus packed worth several cents a pound more when it arrives in the market than it ordinarily is. Indeed, the manner in which it not unfrequently comes to market is a disgrace to those who packed it; and it cannot be that such specimens were ever put up by the hands of a dairy-woman. I have seen what was bought for butter open so marbled, streaked, and rancid, that it was scarcely fit to use on the wheels of a carriage.

If you adopt the course which I have recommended in regard to skimming, you will have a large quantity of sweet skimmed milk, far better than it would be if allowed to stand thirty-six or forty-eight hours, as is the custom with many.—This is too valuable too waste, and it is my opinion that you can use it to far greater profit than to allow it to be fed to swine. There can be no question, I think, that cheese-making should be carried on at the same time with the making of butter, in small and medium-sized dairies. You have seen, in Chapter XI, that some of the best cheese of Holland is made of sweet skim-milk.—

The reputation of Parmesan—a skim-milk cheese of Italy, page 266—is world-wide, and it commands a high price and ready sale. The mode of making these varieties has been described in detail in the ninth and eleventh chapters; and you can imitate them, or, perhaps, improve upon them, and thus turn the skim-milk to a very profitable account, if it is sweet and good. You will find, if you adopt this system, that your butter will be improved, and that, without any great amount of extra labor, you will make a large quantity of good cheese, and thus add largely to the profit of your establishment, and to the comfort and prosperity of your family.

But, if you devote all your attention to the making of cheese, whether it is to be sold green, or as soon as ripe, or packed for exportation, I need not say that the same neatness is required as in the making of butter. You will find many suggestions in the preceding pages on the mode of preparation and packing, which I trust will prove to be valuable and applicable to your circumstances. There is a general complaint among the dealers in cheese that it is difficult to get a superior article. This state of things ought not to exist. I hope the time is not far distant when a more general attention will be paid to the details of manufacture, and let me remind you that those who take the first steps in improvements will reap the greatest advantages.

#### RECENT PROGRESS OF SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE.

BY DR. ANDERSON, OF EDINBURGH.

**SOILS.**—The soil has been the subject of some important observations during the last few years; and though our knowledge of its chemical composition and relations to plants, and to various agents, advances but slowly, important progress has been made in some particulars. Our readers are probably well acquainted with the interesting experiments of Mr. Thompson and Mr. Way, regarding the absorbent power of soils; but it may be well to recall to mind that it has been shown that clay soils have a remarkable power of withdrawing certain substances (among which are some of the most important constituents of manures) from their solutions in water, and bringing them into the form of an insoluble compound with the soil, or with some part of it. Thus, for instance, if a dilute solution of a salt of potash or ammonia be shaken up with a quantity of a soil, the fluid filtered off is found to be entirely deprived of these substances, provided the quantity of soil used has been sufficiently large in proportion to the solution.

Great differences are observed in the absorbent power of soils, and Way considered that it depended on the proportion of clay present in the soil; but though that is no doubt a very active ingredient, there is no reason to suppose that the power of absorbing these substances is restricted to it alone, but rather that many of the constituents of the soil continue to produce this effect.—In point of fact, it by no means appears that this action is confined to soils rich in clay. A recent investigation by Liebig has shown that it is a perfectly general property, and belongs to all soils—even those of the calcareous class, which are generally very deficient in clay. Way's experiments

were chiefly directed to the action of the soil on salts of potash, ammonia, and lime; but Liebig has extended his experiments to soda, which is also removed from solution, though to a smaller extent than the others, and the action takes place in exactly the same manner—the alkali being removed, and the acid left, in combination with lime, extracted from the soil. In these cases the absorbent power of the soil is exerted on the base, and the acids with which they were combined are carried off as lime salts; but an important exception occurs in the case of phosphoric acid, which is retained by the soil. Liebig finds that, if phosphate of lime be dissolved in carbonic-acid water, and the fluid filtered through a soil, the phosphate of lime is removed from solution, and the same effect is produced with the phosphate of magnesia and ammonia—a salt of much agricultural importance, from its frequent occurrence in manures. In this respect, phosphoric acid appears to be an exception to most other acids, even silicic acid not being removed from its solution; for if a silicate of potash or soda be agitated with a soil, it is the base, and not the acid, which is withdrawn from the solution; a result which *a priori*, one should scarcely have anticipated, and which may have important bearings upon the proposed use of silicate of soda as a manure. It likewise appears that nitric acid is not absorbed by soils, but is in the same predicament as the ordinary acids, as we shall afterwards more particularly observe; and the fact is particularly worthy of notice, in relation to the manual effects of the nitrates.

The complete absorption of potash, ammonia, and phosphoric acid by the soil, is a matter of singular importance in the economy of plant life; for these substances which are the most essential elements of their food, have been thus shown to exist in an insoluble state in an ordinary soil; so much so, indeed, that if a quantity of water be poured over, or even boiled with it, the proportion of these substances extracted is infinitesimally small; and in whatever state they may be employed as a manure, the immediate consequence of their mixture with the soil is, that they pass into a state of combination, in which they are insoluble in water. Now, it has always been maintained by vegetable physiologists that plants absorb their food in solution, and the water, permeating the soil, formed the menstruum in which they were absorbed; but it really appears that this is not the case, for the most important of these substances are insoluble, and, as Liebig believes, cannot be rendered soluble by the agents ordinarily operating on the soil. In fact, with the exception of nitric acid as a source of nitrogen, the plant must, if these statements are correct, obtain its supplies of the most important, as well as the most sparingly distributed elements of its food, from insoluble compounds. Reasoning upon this subject, we are forced to admit that the plant must act not merely as the passive absorbent of the substances existing in the soil, but must exert a direct solvent action on the insoluble matters, and be, in fact, an active chemical agent. This view of the matter receives a certain confirmation from the fact that natural spring-waters, which of course have at some time or other permeated the soil, and drainage-water which escapes directly from it, are, as we shall immediately see, singularly devoid of the great

elements of plant food. Potash, for instance, is rarely found in spring water, and drainage-water contains a mere trace of it, while the same is true of ammonia and phosphoric acid. If, therefore, drainage-water be taken to represent the state of matters in the soil, it is impossible to resist the conclusion that plants act chemically on its constituents. Many well-known facts give confirmation to this opinion. Thus, for instance, a lichen growing upon a limestone rock is frequently seen to have corroded it to an appreciable depth, and to contain in its ash an enormous quantity of lime; and it is no uncommon thing, where bones have been applied, to find a turnip which has thrown out a mass of rootlets so as to surround and embrace a fragment of bone, from which they are doubtless busily engaged in dissolving out and absorbing the nutriment they require.

But while all due weight is given to these facts, which appear to force upon us the conviction that plants do, or may, exert a solvent action, there are facts which show that those substances may, under particular conditions, become soluble. Mr. Way, in the course of a recent investigation, has shown that lime has the effect of causing a portion of the ammonia contained in the soil to become soluble. He found that, when a dilute solution of lime (containing less than one part in a thousand) was shaken up with a soil and filtered off, one-half of the ammonia had been removed. In one particular experiment, for instance, a soil, containing 0.286 grains of ammonia per thousand, was found, after agitation with the lime solution, to contain only 0.177. Of course the 0.109 which has disappeared must have passed into solution along with that part of the lime which was not absorbed. Mr. Way, did not attempt to ascertain whether the lime caused the potash also to become soluble, nor whether other agents besides lime produced that effect; and until we have much more extended information regarding the action of different substances on the soil, we are scarcely justified in asserting that plants invariably take up their food by dissolving it out of insoluble compounds, although there is no doubt that they do possess, and occasionally exercise, this power. But whatever changes they may subsequently undergo, there is no question about the fact that the important elements of the food of plants do become insoluble when they are added to the soil.

The facts just stated may appear at first sight to militate against the prevalent practice of giving a preference to soluble manures. Why, it may be asked, should the farmer purchase superphosphate, in which the phosphate of lime has been brought into a soluble form at a very great expense (not less than three times the price of the quantity of phosphate of lime so converted,) when chemistry tells us that the instant it mixes with the soil it is brought back into its original condition? Why should it not be used at once in the insoluble form, in which it is so much cheaper? But the inference is fallacious; for though the plant may not absorb the phosphoric acid from a solution, yet it is essential that it should be in such a form of combination as may admit of its being readily attacked by the roots. Phosphate of lime, which has been dissolved and again rendered insoluble, is unquestionably in a state better suited for absorption than that in which it originally existed, and is, moreover,

more satisfactorily distributed through the soil. Indeed, the facts just detailed rather tend to enforce more strongly on the farmer the importance of using all his manures in the most soluble state in which it is possible to obtain them, because he thereby increases the chance of their uniform distribution through the soil. And it is obvious that this must be the most favorable condition, not merely for the absorption of the constituents of the manure itself, but also for that of the substances the plant must take from the supplies naturally existing in the soil. If, for example, an ammonia salt were used as a manure, its irregular distribution through the soil would be unfavourable, not on account of any difficulty in its absorption—for that we know takes place with great facility—but because it is necessary that simultaneously with the ammonia the plant shall be assimilating an adequate supply of all its other constituents; and it is possible that it might have exhausted the supply of them existing in that part of the soil in which the ammonia is accumulated before the latter, and hence be under the necessity of abandoning what remains, and stretching forth its roots into new regions of the soil in search of those substances which it cannot find there in sufficient quantity. There is another highly important practical inference which may be drawn from the observations on the absorbent power of soils, and that is, that we need be under no apprehension of the loss of potash, ammonia or phosphoric acid by their being washed out of the soil; and we cannot fail to notice with admiration the wonderful provision by which the least abundant constituents of the food of plants are so carefully husbanded for their use. On the other hand, we observe that there are no such contrivances for the preservation of the acids, chlorine, sulphuric and nitric acids; and this indicates, especially in regard to the last of these substances, the precautions to be adopted in employing it as a manure. It is also obvious that, where it becomes necessary to employ manures in an insoluble state, great care should be taken to distribute them through the soil as uniformly as possible. Indeed, in all cases in which concentrated manures are employed, this is of importance; and they ought always to be mixed with some substance to give them bulk. It is not improbable that the beneficial effects derived from mixing guano with salt, in cases where the latter substance is itself without effect, may be due to its action as a diluent. But whether this be the case or not, it is always advisable to mix guano and all other light manures with once or twice their bulk of dry soil, and to reduce them to as fine powder as possible—a precaution which is too often neglected.—*Quarterly Journal of Agriculture.*

**LARGE SALE OF MULES.**—Two hundred head of Mules, one year old last spring, were sold on Tuesday last, by Hon. A. G. Talbott, to Messrs. D. W. Jones and Jas. Bentley, all of this county. The price paid by Messrs. J. & B. was \$30,000 for the lot, or an average of \$150 per head. The Mules are said to be extra fine—about three-fourths of them mares.—*Danville Tribune, (Ky.) Nov. 17th.*

For one man who sincerely pities our misfortunes, there are thousands who sincerely hate our success.

## PLANTING TREES.

A young friend writes: "I am now about laying out a small orchard for apples, pears, plums, peaches, etc., also about setting some fruit and ornamental trees about my house, which has been neglected long enough," and solicits our advice.

By all means lay out your orchard and plant your trees, and do it without delay. You are beginning with the right spirit. A gentleman whose farm is famous for fine avenues of maples, told us recently that the first work he did when he took possession of it, was to plant those trees.—They have been to him a source of continual delight, they have refreshed the heart of the passing traveller, and they have proved a rich exemplar for every one to follow who would most cheaply decorate a rural scene.

We like to plant trees; we wish that we could say that our success in caring for them, in protecting them from all dangers, and supplying all their wants, equaled our delight in planting them. We have learned much from that dear schoolmaster, experience, and our readers shall have the benefit of our pupillage. We have been reasonably successful, but an occasional failure has taught us caution. Too many are apt to consider that a tree once planted will take care of itself, and in estimating the cost of an orchard they only count the expense of the trees, and the labor of setting them out. There is no more fatal error than this. The sooner this idea is abandoned the better. Not one tree in fifty, with the ordinary preparation of the soil, if left to itself after planting will finally develop either as a fruit or a shade tree. The perfect trees are the exceptions. We hear of one here and there which regularly yield astonishing crops. Is this success attainable by any means in our power so that the same results may be secured in orchard culture? We think that to a great extent it may be. We can so treat our corn fields that we can raise with tolerable certainty, either fifty or one hundred bushels per acre. So an orchard may be so treated that both growth and productiveness shall in one case be double what it is in another.

Briefly then, what are the conditions necessary for the healthy and most satisfactory growth and productiveness of trees? A sheltered aspect is desirable, that the branches may not be broken and twisted by the winds or ice, or the fruit prematurely shaken from the boughs.

A deep, strong, and mellow soil is also desirable. In a shallow soil the roots are exposed to every change of temperature, and degree of moisture. Strength of soil not only gives vigor to the tree, but high flavor to the fruit. Stones and gravel in the soil keep it loose and open, and favor the spreading of the roots.

Thorough draining is essential, either natural or artificial. It insures the ripening of the young wood even in a very rich and strong soil, so that it can endure the winter, and starts with vigor in the spring. The earth saturated with water prevents all access of air to the roots, and the stunting and diseased condition of the whole system is shown by moss covered limbs, feeble and spotted leaves, gnarly and immature fruit.

Healthy vigorous trees with well formed heads, if of much size, and with symmetrical roots, these being of more importance than the top, will always give satisfaction. The best care often fails in attempting to invigorate a diseased tree, and its

contracted vessels can never allow the free circulation of its sap.

We will not dwell at length upon the necessity of a proper selection of varieties adapted to the particular section, care in planting with proper fertilizers, (use no fresh manure) the comparative advantages of spring or fall planting, (if in the Fall do not allow the roots to freeze while out of the ground) the host of enemies to be provided against, that the planter may enjoy the fruit of his labors, biped, quadruped, and those with an indefinite number of legs, all these cares will test his patience and foresight, but the pleasure of triumph over these difficulties, will pay the account in Fall, and leave a large balance in favor of the cultivator.—*Homestead.*

#### FACTS FOR FARMERS.

**GROSS AND NET WEIGHT OF CATTLE.**—The ordinary rule of ascertaining the net weight of beef cattle from the live weight on the scales, varies according to quality, size and age, and after all is no rule at all, because it is entirely a matter of agreement between the parties at the time.

It also depends upon the locality. In New York, the net weight of the beef in the quarter only is wanted. In Boston, the hide and fat are included, counting those products equal to one-quarter of the beef, or rather, calling the whole five quarters. There, the net weight of a fat bullock is estimated at 60 to 68 pounds of each 100 of live weight. In extra fine animals the percentage is higher.

In New York, where the hide and fat are left out of the calculation, the bullocks are estimated at 55 to 60 pounds net to each 100 pounds gross; and if the animal is very fine, the estimate runs from 61 to 64 pounds net to each 100 pounds gross. Extraordinary animals sometimes dress 65 or 66 pounds, and even higher, and ordinary and lean stock run from 55 down to 47, though not often below 50 pounds, or one-half the live weight at home. The common practice at the West is to weigh fattened cattle, some hours after feeding and a little exercise, and calculate the net weight at 55 pounds per 100 of the live weight.

**GROSS AND NET WEIGHT OF SWINE.**—The rule of ascertaining the net weight of fat hogs is to deduct one-fifth of the gross weight. It is an easy way to make the calculation, or reduction of gross to net weight, by using the decimal 8-10 as a multiplier, cutting off one right hand figure of the product, to show the net sum. Thus:

10 hogs weigh.....	2,729 lbs.
Multiply by.....	8

Will make net.....	2,183.2 lbs.
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If you have the gross weight of a drove of hogs at home, which you may have taken to market and sold at net weight, and wish to ascertain how the net and gross compare, take your sum of the net weight, say 2,183.2. Divide by 8-10, and you will find the quotient, 2,729.

This will be found a very convenient and useful rule. Sometimes a person may be offered one sum as a gross price, and another as a net price of the same lot, and would like to know at once which offer is the best. This is quickly done. You have simply to apply the same rule, of division by eight-tenths to the price instead of weight. For instance: Suppose the offer is, as it sometimes is in New York, \$5.25 per cwt. gross,

or \$6.50 net. Divide \$5.25 by 8-10, the quotient will be \$6.56.2, showing that it will be six cents and two mills per cwt. gross to the owner's advantage to sell at \$5.25 gross.

**GROSS AND NET WEIGHT OF SHEEP.**—The usual estimate of gross and net weight of sheep is, that the dressed carcass will weigh one-half as much as the gross weight, and therefore, when the sheep are sold at say five cents a pound alive, the price is equivalent to ten cents a pound for the meat, sinking the pelt and all the offal, so that the butcher, if he would sell the carcass at cost, would still have the pelt, rough fat, head, &c., for a profit. Hence it will be seen how it is that mutton in the carcass is often quoted in market reports at less than it appears by live stock reports to have actually cost.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

**SALE OF STOCK.**—We learn that Mr. James N. Goldsborough's sale of surplus Stock and Farming Implements, on Wednesday the 10th November, amounted to upwards of four thousand dollars, independent of the Stallions, neither of which were sold. A friend who attended the sale has furnished us with the following list of prices of some of the stock.

Bull "Chester," 4 years old, brought	\$165.00
Roan Cow 5 years old	" 115.00
Yoke of white Oxen	" 134.00
Roan do	" 153.00
Cow "Belle Chester," 13 yrs old,	90.00
Heifer calf of said cow, 2 yrs. old,	70.00
Do of roan cow,	60.00

The colts ranging from 3 to 18 months old, brought from \$40 to \$135 each—mostly about \$100 each. We understand that Mr. G. has still an overstock of horses. The sale was well attended by citizens of Talbot and the adjoining counties, and the large display of fine stock elicited general admiration.—*Easton Monitor.*

**SALES OF BLOODED COLTS IN KENTUCKY.**—James C. Montague, of Fayette county, sold a few days since, his premium sucking colt "Woodburn," by Lexington, out of Bellamira, and she by imported Monarch, for \$600. Thomas H. Embury, of Madison was the purchaser.—*Louisville Courier.*

Dr. Wm. B. Wood, of Louisiana, has purchased of Messrs. Harper & Bruce, their gray colt two years old, by Gray Eagle, dam Margaret Edan, by imported Glencoe. Price, one thousand dollars. This is one of the most promising colts in the State, and will make his debut in the trial stake for colts of his age, to come off next week over the Association Course.—*Lex. Statesman.*

**CLOVER.**—Where clover can be mown more than once in a season, each time that it is cut, the roots penetrate to a greater depth in the soil and subsoil, in search of food; it is therefore evident that this plant does not receive all its support from the active surface soil, but a portion of it from a greater depth in the subsoil than most ordinary farm crops. Besides this, I have been led to believe from experience and observation, that the roots of clover not only obtain a portion of their food from a greater depth in the earth than is penetrated by the plow, but that those roots in thus penetrating the subsoil in search of food, actually bring up something which in their decay strengthens and enriches the soil for future crops.—*Correspondent in Country Gentleman.*

The following lines are by the same author—Charles Mackay, of England, the well known Song writer—whose verses in praise of Catawba Wine, together with his letter to the London News, descriptive of American Vinyards and Wine, appeared in the American Farmer for September last. The following were published in the London News of Oct. 9th, 1858. They are particularly applicable to the New Rochelle Blackberry:

### BLACKBERRIES.

#### I

BLACK as Beauty's tresses,  
Sweet as Love's caresses,  
Darlings of the people, beloved of high and low,  
Dear to age and childhood,  
Gleaming in the wild wood,  
Peeping to the sunshine in every green hedgerow,  
Berries of the bramble,  
How I love to ramble  
Through the shady valleys, and pluck you as I go!

#### II.

Your luxuriant treasure,  
Stintless, out of measure,  
Fills me with such feeling of recklessness and joy;  
With such sense of rapture  
At the wealth of capture,  
Prodigal as sunbeams where the wavelets toy,  
I laugh at Time and trial,  
And on his sunny dial  
Turn back the creeping shadows and feel I'm yet a boy.

#### III

Come hither, little maiden,  
With wicker basket laden; [day:  
And thou, oh peasant urchin, with cheeks like dawning  
We'll all go forth together,  
Free as the wind and weather,  
And pluck the luscious blackberries that ripen by the way;  
You of the world unweeting,  
I from the world retreating,  
To taste a simple pleasure, and prize it while I may!

### WINE BUSINESS ABOUT CINCINNATI.

The Commercial has received from Mr. Fournier, Director of N. Longworth's Wine House, the annexed statement of the vintage of 1858 in Brown, Clermont and Hamilton counties. Mr. F. has a long list of names of vintners, with the quantities of wine made by each, stated by themselves, so that his statement is reliable. He remarks likewise that the wine of 1858 is of superior quality, being as good as the celebrated vintage of 1853, and the yield is considerably greater than that of 1857, but how much greater we are not advised. Here is the statement:

	Gallons.
Yield of Vineyards in Brown county for 1858.....	17,000
" " Hamilton " " .....	14,000
" " Clermont " " .....	2,500
Total.....	33,500

The price per gallon ranges from \$1 00 to \$1 20, the latter figure being the current quotation. The entire crop is valued at \$40,000. T. H. Yeatman, Esq., who produced 1,400 gallons last year upon eight acres, made but 800 gallons this year. His neighbor, Mr. John Brent, reputed one of the best vintners in Ohio, produced 513 gallons, against 1,200 last year—on five acres. In 1853 his vineyard yielded 1,100 gallons per acre! and during several successive years the crop was very small. Mr. Rentz likewise made 1,100 gallons per acre that year, and during several years after his vines failed. It is obvious, therefore, that heavy crops are injurious.

Near Ripley, (Brown county,) many vintners realize a full crop this year. Mr. Brumback, near that town, made 1,500 gallons from eight acres, and his neighbor Mr. Hoffman, made 1,700 gallons on a similar area. An evidence of the difference in crops, resulting from careful and careless culture, is exhibited in the case of Mr. Fee, near Moscow, Clermont Co., who made but 300 gallons from a vineyard of twenty-two acres, and of Mr. Tattman who made 400 gallons from two acres. Both vineyards have a sou-westerly slope, and are close together. Mr. Fournier, esteems Brown county the best vine growing district in Ohio.

A Wine Grower, also informs the Commercial that the quantity of wine manufactured is much greater than last year, and the quality decidedly superior. Mr. Fournier has had no difficulty in purchasing twenty-five thousand gallons, in choosing which he took none but the best. To obtain a stock last year, he was compelled to buy largely in Missouri. Mr. F. has visited nearly every vineyard in this quarter, and so had better means of judging on both these points than any one else.

### RAISING POTATOES UNDER STRAW.

The practice of growing potatoes under straw, we find is yearly extending. It is now some four years since statements were first published of the practice and results, and as yearly we have read the records of those who have adopted it, we do not recollect an instance of failure, or an example of rot occurring in fields so grown. The potatoe, it is well known, succeeds best in cool even temperatures, and as the straw on the surface has a tendency to create more regular heat and moisture; than ground exposed to the full rays of the sun, giving thereby a longer season of maturity, we presume the cause and results are plainly apparent. The process of such practice is, to plant in the usual season, covering the seed very lightly with earth, and afterwards covering the whole field six to eight inches deep with straw. No labor of cultivation is practised, but in the fall the straw is raked off, and the crop of potatoes found superior to those grown in the old mode of hilling.

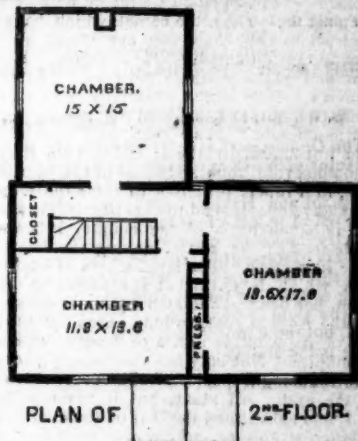
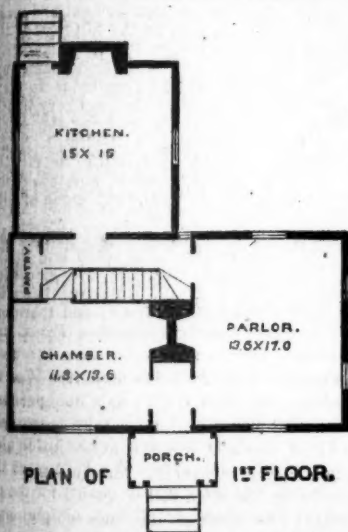
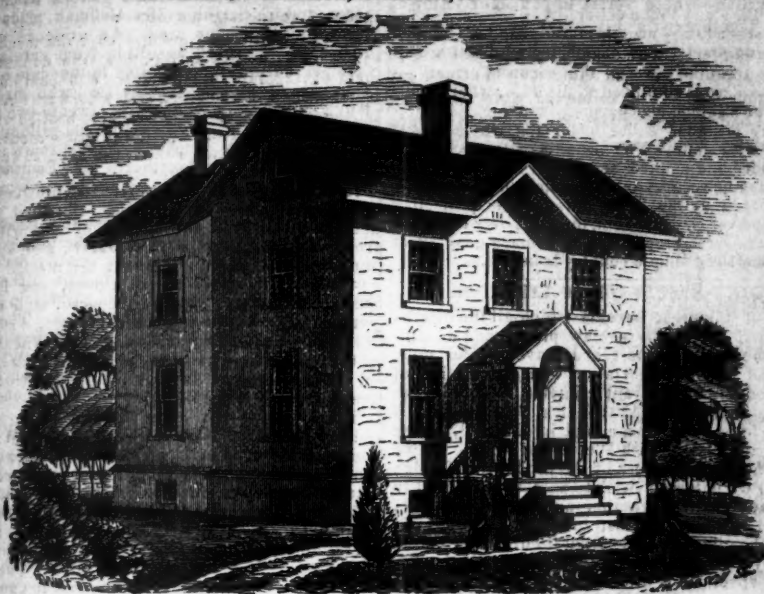
On light sandy or dry ground, we believe this course will be successful, if planted late in the fall. We once planted in January, and succeeded admirably, but the next and following years we had no land sufficiently drained, and therefore could not continue our experiments.—*Farmer and Miner.*

CHINESE YAM (*Dioscorea Batatas*)—Wm. C. Wilson, Esq., has politely sent us a fine specimen of this new esculent which for a year or two past has been very highly lauded and as much ridiculed in the Agricultural Journals. We have given the Yam a fair trial and think that its quality for the table may very well admit of difference of opinion.—It is beautifully white, cooks well, and may become, on better acquaintance, a favourite vegetable. At present, we do not consider it equal to either the sweet or the Irish potatoe.

While we hardly suppose the Yam will become an article of profitable culture, it may prove a useful and agreeable addition to the productions of the garden.

## HINTS ON RURAL HOMES.

By THOS. &amp; J. M. DIXON, ARCHITECTS, 117 Baltimore st., Balt.



The accompanying design for a farmer's house, of moderate size and cost, was prepared by us a few months ago for Col. Wm. Slater, of Baltimore county, and erected by him near Havre-de-Grace, in Harford county, Md.

The primary object to be accomplished in preparing this design was to obtain the greatest amount

of useful accommodation for a small outlay of means and, at the same time, so to arrange the different parts as to secure comfort and convenience within, and an agreeable exterior effect; a task by the way not so easy to perform satisfactorily, in all cases, but one that is very frequently imposed upon an architect.

By reference to the accompanying illustrations it will be seen that the plan is very compact. The first story contains three rooms, pantry and passage, and a vestibule, or lobby, at the front entrance, from which two of the rooms are entered. Door-

ways from the passage communicate with the three rooms, and also with the pantry. The staircase is located in the passage, and there, also, is placed the stairs to the cellar.

The second story contains three chambers, a linen closet and press. The chambers and closet are all entered from the passage, thus securing privacy.—The staircase is continued to the attic, where there are three sleeping apartments.

There is a good cellar under the whole house, walled with stone. The house is of frame, weather-boarded and painted, and roofed with shingles.

As may be seen by the accompanying view, the small porch at the front entrance, the projecting eaves and verges of the roof, the gable over the porch and the general proportions, produce a good effect for a small and simple country house.

#### SOME RESULTS OF ACCLIMATION.

One of the great benefits which all the discoveries and inventions of new places, and a facilitated mode of transport and travel confer upon mankind is, the exportation and distribution of the products of different climates, the one to the other. Thus, in the East Indies, Spanish wine is cooled by American ice, and in England, Jersey apples are cooked with West India sugar. As we learn the flavor and use of the products of foreign climes, we naturally wish to possess them, but to make any of them, whether animal or vegetable, able to live in what is, to them, a foreign climate, they have to be acclimatised. This is best done by a gradual change; and although the imported specimen is often of little use, yet its seed or offspring can be made useful or eatable as the case may be. Thus, the camels which have been imported to Texas, are not capable of so much labor in that climate as their offspring which are born and matured there will be. There is in France a society which especially pays attention to this subject, and some of its results we will now enumerate. The "yak," or Thibet bull, has been introduced by them; and in 1835 they distributed several thousand bulbs of the yam, which now, in France, promises to rival the potato.—They have encouraged the growth of the Sorgho, and in some parts of the country it is now the staple food of the cattle, leaving the beets to be made into sugar. The loza, a kind of buckthorn, from which is extracted the beautiful Chinese green, has been acclimated by their endeavors; and the Angora goat, so long noted for the fineness of its wool, is now a permanent resident of the empire. Not only has this society succeeded in introducing a species of silkworm which feeds on the castor oil plant, but it has modified its food, and substituted the leaf of the common teazel for the former, which is difficult to cultivate in that country. With a view of restoring the fine quality of the potato, which, by too extensive cultivation in Europe, and by disease, has deteriorated, the society has imported a large number of roots taken from the Cordilleras. A plot of land has been granted to them by the city of Paris, which is to be made into a zoological and botanic garden, for the acclimation and propagation of foreign animals and vegetables that may produce articles either of luxury or utility. This is putting our knowledge of geography and steam to good use, and studying in the most practical way the great problems of social science.—*Scientific American*.

#### RE-SEEDING MEADOWS.

The Ohio Farmer recommends the following mode of re-seeding meadows:

Spread well-rotted manure over the meadow, either early in the spring, or at the commencement of the fall rains, and let this be followed by thorough harrowing, and afterwards rolling in the spring. If meadows are well-harrowed in the latter part of April, and grass seed sown upon them, and then rolled, the seed sown will readily grow.

If the meadows absolutely need plowing, we should prefer to wait until the fall; then plow, and give the land the benefit of the winter's frost. In the latter part of March, sow barley, and after it is well up, or about the first of May, sow about four lbs. of red clover, and half a bushel of orchard grass to the acre, with a proportion of any other grasses desired, and then roll. Or, instead of barley, Spring wheat may at the proper time be sown, if preferred. Either of these crops are favorable to the growth of grass, shading it but little.

There are several reasons why meadows require re-seeding. One is this: under bad management the crop of hay is annually carried off, while no manure is supplied to the land to maintain its fertility. Another reason is, the almost universal preference given to timothy, which, though excellent, is not a perennial grass, and is therefore very difficult to retain for a succession of years.

#### DESTRUCTION OF INSECTS.

From *Journal of the Franklin Institute*, Nov. 1850.—M. Millot Brulé, exhibited before the Imperial Central Horticultural Society, of Paris, the efficacy of the powdered proto-sulphuret of iron, (which has been before used for the preservation of timber,) in destroying noxious and annoying insects. The powder may be strewed over the ground around the roots of the tree, or fixed on the surface of a collar surrounding the stem: no insect will pass it, or if they attempt it they are immediately killed. The proto-sulphuret of iron (black pyrites) occurs as a mineral in various parts of France and Germany, and is manufactured for the purpose of developing sulphuretted hydrogen, which is undoubtedly the effective agent in destroying the vermin.—*Cosmos*.

The Messrs. Dixon, architects, have favoured us with another design for a Country House, on a less expensive scale than those which we published heretofore. It makes a convenient, roomy, and tasteful house, at a cost which is within the reach of a much larger number of farmers—the cost complete being about \$1,800.

We suggest to those of our subscribers, who mean to build, that they will find their account in employing a skillful architect at a cost of \$25 or \$30, to furnish full plans and working drawings for the guidance of the carpenter. The Messrs. Dixon have had much experience and given general satisfaction, we believe, to those who have had the benefit of their services.

**SPORTING MATTERS.**—Porter's Spirit says that Priores made the best time ever made by an American horse, in her late Cesarewitch race in England, over the turf of Newmarket Heath.—The distance run was two miles and a quarter and twenty-eight yards, and her time was three minutes fifty-six seconds, carrying 107 pounds, which is within two pounds of what she would have carried over the Metairie course, at the same age of running. This is at the rate of 4 min. 45 $\frac{1}{2}$  sec., or say, 1.46 to the mile, two miles at the rate of 3.32, and, if carried out at the same rate, the Goodwood-cup distance in 4.25, and a four-mile heat in 7.04. The two-mile rate, however, having been done, is that which may be fairly compared with the two mile time performed by American horses in this country. Looking to the record of fast time in the American Racing Calendar and Trotting Record, we find the time of Hegira, a four year old, which ran a two-mile heat at New Orleans in 1850, with catch weight, in 3.34, to be the best two-mile time made in this country; consequently the 3.32 of Priores is in every way vastly better, and deserves, in one way, to head the American record.

#### NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

American Farmer.—Yoke of Oxen.  
Bentley F. D.—Pianos.  
Deacon & Peterson.—The Saturday Evening Post.—Prospectus for 1859.  
Edelen, Dr. P. R.—Maryland Farm for sale.  
Evans, R. H.—Catawissa Raspberry Plants.  
Greenway, J. H. & Co.—Commission Merchants, Baltimore.  
Kydd, O. G.—Auctioneer and Land Agent in Cecil County, Md.  
Lippincott, L. K.—Grace Greenwood's Little Pilgrim—a periodical for children.  
Morris, Paschall.—Improved Stock.  
Morris, Paschall.—Implements and Seeds.  
Scharff, Isaac T.—Devon Cattle for sale.  
Smith, F. H.—New Method of Drying Bricks.  
Shipley, H.—Wanted to buy—Butter, Eggs, Poultry, Potatoes, &c.  
Stoddard, I. T.—Pianos, Chickering & Sons.  
Sinclair, Jr. & Co.—Variety of Corn Shellers.  
Spear, James O. & Co.—Fairbank's Scales.  
Townsend, W. A.—The Horse and Horsemanship of the United States and British Provinces, by H. W. Herbert.  
Willis, S.—Lumber, Shingles and Lathes.  
Whitman, E. & Co.—Premiums awarded them at the U. S. Agricultural Society's Fair at Richmond, and at other Fairs in the Fall of 1858.

#### BALTIMORE MARKETS, Nov. 29th.

**Flour.**—There has been little change in the Flour Market since our last. We quote Howard street Superfine, \$5.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; Ohio do., \$5.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; Howard street Extra, \$6.00; Ohio Extra, \$5.50; Baltimore ground Family Flour, \$7.50; Extra, \$6.50.

**Wheat.**—The Grain Market shows little improvement during the past month. We quote Red at \$1.18 to \$1.23, for good to prime reds, 1.15 for ordinary white, 1.30 to 1.40 for good to prime, 1.45 for Choice.

**Corn.**—We quote Corn, White, 63 to 70 cts.; Yellow, 75 to 78; New White, 55 to 62; 62 to 67 yellow.

**Oats.**—We quote Oats 42 to 50.

**Rye.**—Maryland 70 to 75 cts.; Pa. 80 to 83.

**Tobacco.**—Tobacco continues in active demand; prices are firm. We quote inferior to good Maryland \$4 to \$6.75; Superior, \$8.25 to \$10.75. Bay Tobacco we quote, Tips \$1.50 to \$5.50; Seconds \$5.50 to \$7.08; Spangled \$7.00 to \$12.00; Fine Yellow, \$12.00 to \$16.00. Ohio Tobacco; common Green, \$5.50; common Spangled, \$6.50; common to middling Red Spangled, \$6.50 to \$7.50; good to fine red and yellow Spangled, \$8 to \$10; good to fine Yellow, \$11 to \$15.00; Kentucky \$6.00 to 6.25 for Lugs; \$7.50 to \$8.50 for medium leaf, and \$9.00 to \$12.00 for wrappers.

**Cotton.**—11 to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  cts., six months.

**Plaster.**—\$2.75 to \$3.00 per ton, prime.

**Seeds.**—Prime Cloverseed, \$5.62 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; \$5.75 for new; Timothy Seed, \$2.00 to \$2.25; Flax Seed, \$1.40 to 1.45.

**Wool.**—Unwashed, 20 to 24 cts., tub washed 31 to 35; No. 1 pulled, 26 to 29; Merino pulled, 28 to 32; common Fleece washed, 30 to 35; quarter to half blood, 35 to 39; half to three-quarters, 35 to 38; three-quarter to full blood, 37 to 40; Extra, 42 to 47; (all washed.)

**Cattle, Sheep and Hogs.**—Supply of Beef large.—Price ranges from \$2.75 to 4.12 $\frac{1}{2}$  averaging \$3.12 $\frac{1}{2}$  on the hoof, equal to \$7.00, nett. Hogs, \$6.75 to \$7 per hundred pounds, nett. Sheep, \$2 to 3.50 per head as to quality.

**Guano.**—Peruvian Guano in small lots is selling at \$62.50 to \$63 per ton of 2,240 lbs.; California or Elide Guano, \$38 per ton of 2,000, \$40 per ton of 2,240 lbs., in lots of 50 tons and upwards; Mexican A.A., \$23 to 25, and A at \$18 to 20 per ton of 2,240; White Mexican A at \$30 per ton; Navassa Brown Colombian, at \$25, and El Roque, at \$34. De Burg's Superphosphates, \$45 per ton of 2,000 lbs.; Whitelock's Superphosphates, at \$40, and Rhodes' \$45 per ton of 2000 lbs. Reese's Manipulated and Kettlewell's Manipulated Guano, \$47. Ground Bones, coarse, \$25, fine, \$27, per ton of 2000 lbs. or 68 cts the bushel.

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